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THE

MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER

VOL. IV., 1901

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The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. IV. JANUARY, 1901. NO. 1.

"THE FORD AT MISTICK."

By JOHN H. HOOPER.

THE place selected by the early travellers for crossing the river by means of a ford was the most easterly point where the river itself could be reached without crossing the marshes.

Most of the travelling in those early days for any considerable distance was on horseback, and as the marshes were too soft to support the weight of a horse, it was necessary to select a fording place where a firm gravel deposit formed the banks and bed of the river.

The place selected on the south side of the river was a little west of the northerly end of Walnut street, and west of and adjoining the estate of Mr. Chandler on South street. It is evident that this estate encroaches somewhat upon the original landing place. On the northerly side of the river the landing place was nearly opposite the location of the old high school building on High street.

The southerly end of Pasture hill at that point formed the bank of the river. Persons travelling towards the north and west would leave the river and pass up the steep bank to the left in front of the location of the public library building, and those travelling eastward would turn to the right along the gravel beach to a point near the Cradock farmhouse which stood on what was then known as "Salem Path to Mistick Ford," near the present square.

In order to verify the correctness of some of these statements, and to form an idea of the situation then existing, let us take a position on the hill in the rear of

the old high-school building and, looking towards the river, see in imagination the retaining wall on the north side of the river, and the earth filling back of it removed ; also the retaining wall supporting the southerly side of High street, that extends from the dwelling house of Dr. Bemis to a point opposite the driveway of the public library, and the filling back of that also removed ; see the new channel of the river filled up so as to turn the water into its original course, sweep away all buildings and other improvements, remembering that the tide once flowed into the square, that Cradock bridge was twice its present length, and that the south bank of the river was then substantially as at present; see also the narrow cart path creeping along the bank of the river, just above high-water mark, and then climbing the steep bank in front of the public library building, and we shall then understand the situation thereabouts when the ford was in use.

The general course of the river from Cradock bridge to the northerly end of the ford is nearly east and west, then it takes an abrupt turn in a southwesterly direction, bringing the landing places on the north and south side of the river about opposite each other, and making the course of the fording place lengthwise of that portion of the river.

The place thus designated as the site of the ancient ford at Mistick does not agree with those selected by the historians of Medford. It will therefore be necessary to show cause for locating it as above described.

Fortunately the early records of the town of Charlestown (see the Third Report of the Boston Record Commissioners) furnish all the evidence necessary to locate the ancient ford at Mistick, extracts from which are as follows : " A record of land laid out in Charlestown bounds on this side of the Menotomie's River (being called the Stinted Pasture) unto the Proprietors thereof, according to a vote of theirs passed when convened together, March 10th 1684–5.

"To John Foule, Fourteen Acres, *through which is laid a Highway to the Ford*, and a Highway by the upper side of the Bridge to the River, said land bounded westnortherly and northeasterly by Mistick River : eastsoutherly by the Highway and Farm : southwesterly by Ebenezer Austin : and westnortherly by a Rangeway."

The parcel of land above described was situated on both sides of what is now South street and west of Main street. It included all the land between South street and the river, on the north and south, and between Main street and the fording place on the east and west, except one-half an acre on the corner of Main and South streets, a portion of which is now occupied by the brick engine house of the Fire Department. The highway to the river was laid out two rods in width, and was used by the town of Charlestown as a landing place for materials used in the construction and repairs of the southerly half of Mistick bridge. This way was five rods in length and connected with the half-acre lot on the corner of Main and South streets, which lot was known by the name of "The Gravel Pit." The farm referred to was that of Governor Winthrop, afterwards that of Lieutenant-Governor Usher, and still later that of Col. Isaac Royall, portions of the westerly bounds of which are still in existence.

"To Christopher Goodwin. Seven Acres. bounded westnortherly by Mrs. Anna Shepherd : north by Mistick River *and a Highway to the Ford from the Country Road ;* eastsoutherly by the Rangeway : southwesterly by Peter Frothingham."

This parcel of land was located west of the land set off to John Foule, on both sides of South street. Its northwesterly boundary was substantially where the northwest line of Touro avenue now is. The rangeway on the east south bound was a little west of Walnut street, and separated the land of Goodwin from that of Foule. The fordway extended from Main street to a

distance of twenty-four rods westerly from that portion of the land of John Foule situated on the north side of the fordway. The distance between the rangeway and land of Mrs. Anna Shepherd was forty-one rods.

"There is, by the records, a place for Gravel. About one-half an acre, of land, on Mistick River just above the Bridge, bounded as follows: — westerly by land formerly Jonathan Tufts' now Brigadier Royall's, 10½ rods: northerly on said Tufts' land next the marsh 7 rods: from whence a two pole way running down to the River, butting easterly on the Country road 5½ rods: and southerly upon *the way that leads to the Ford or landing-place*, 9 rods, which way is two rods wide to the landing-place.

"There is a piece of land, about one-half an acre, belonging to the town, for a landing or fishing place on Medford River, which is bounded as follows, viz: — on land formerly of Mr. Jonathan Tufts, now Brigadier Royalls, measuring from the road at the east end back to the River, northerly 8 rods: from said east end along the road to a stake, measuring 24 rods westerly, and from said stake northerly to the River is two rods, all straight lines."

The town of Charlestown voted at a meeting held May 8, 1723, to authorize a committee to sell and convey a piece of land situated at the corner of the country road and the way that leads to the ford, upon conditions that the grantees forever maintain and repair the said town's half of Mistick bridge and the "causey" adjoining and also build a dwelling house (within two years) of two stories, thirty-six feet long and eighteen feet wide, two rooms upon a floor. (Mr. Jonathan Tufts, who then owned the land now occupied by Messrs. Symmes, Crowley, and Page and Curtin, protested against the sale, inasmuch as it cut him off from the country road.)

A description of the land copied from the county records is as follows: "About one-half an acre, upland and Marsh near the Great Bridge, the gravel pit so

called, bounded, westerly on land in possession of Jonathan Tufts 10½ rods ; northerly on said Tufts' land next to the Marsh 7 rods, together with a two pole way leading down to the River above the upper side of the Bridge : easterly on the County road 10½ rods : southerly upon *the way that leads to the Ford or landing place* 9 rods, which way is laid out two rods wide."

The dwelling house above described will be recognized by old residents of the city as that of Mr. Richard and Miss Emily Tufts, which stood where the brick engine-house now stands, and which was destroyed in the great fire of 1850.

The foregoing evidence proves conclusively that the southerly end of the ford was located as before stated. There is, however, no such positive evidence as to the landing on the north side of the river. It is well known that a landing place once existed there. But conjecture becomes certainty when we consider that the northerly end of the ford must have been located as before stated, for the very good reason that it could not have been located elsewhere, taking into consideration the fact that no gravel beach existed on the north side of the river, either east or west, within one-half a mile of the location above described.

Mention is made of the ancient fording place in the records of the General Court as follows: "Oct. 27, 1648, The General Court voted in answer to the petition of Mr. Nicholas Davidson, concerning Mistick Bridge. . . . But it appears not in the least that the General Court did engage to the repairing thereof. . . . and that the passage for travellers shall be over the Foarde which is above the Bridge."

"John Winthrop and his Home on the Mystic" was the subject for the meeting of November 19. Mr. Charles D. Elliott, President of the Somerville Historical Society, gave a very interesting paper containing much information about the Ten Hills Farm, which included a large part of Medford south of the river. A hearty vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Elliott at the close of the meeting.

INCIDENTS AND REMINISCENCES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF MEDFORD.

By Samuel G. Jepson.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, Dec. 17, 1900.]

IN the earlier days of the town's history there was not sufficient care taken to preserve the records of events and the doings of the Fire Department. I have perused the records of the different fire companies, but could learn nothing of their services at the fires which occurred, except from the records of the Hook and Ladder Company, and of the Washington Engine Company No. 3.

From the early records of the Hook and Ladder Company, and from books in their possession, I learn that in the year 1785 an association was formed bearing the name of the "Amicable Fire Society," and having for its motto "Amicis Nobisque." By Constitution and By-Law the members bound themselves to assist each other in extinguishing fires that threatened the destruction of their property. For this purpose they agreed to furnish themselves with two leathern buckets for carrying water, two fire sails, or bags, for carrying small articles to a place of safety, and a screw or bed key for taking apart the bed which, in those days, was of the sacking or windlass pattern. On the alarm of fire being given, they were to answer the call, and render all the assistance in their power. The fire buckets were passed along the line formed from the nearest well. The water was sometimes thrown on to the fire, sometimes used to supply the engine nearest the fire. The buckets were suitably inscribed with the owner's name and the year that he became a member, and, with the bags and screw key, were to be kept in a suitable place in his home. Once each quarter they were inspected by a committee appointed for that purpose, and if not found

in place a fine of twenty-five cents was levied for each article missing.

Meetings were held quarterly at some of the hotels in the town; and the annual meeting for election of officers and the annual dinner was often held at some hotel out of town, such as Spy Pond House, Fresh Pond Hotel, sometimes at Lynn, Hingham, or other places to suit the pleasure of the members.

The members of this society were not only banded together to protect the property of themselves and friends, but they were free to render assistance out of town. I learn from their records that at a quarterly meeting held Nov. 6, 1818, a committee of members, Messrs. W. Ward and Dudley Hall, were appointed to consult with the Fire Wards and Selectmen of the town, to inquire if it be expedient for the engine to go to Boston and Charlestown at their fires; also to inquire into what further preparations can be made for the security of the town. At the next meeting, Nov. 11, 1818, the committee reported as follows:

"Your committee beg leave to report that on Friday evening, the sixth instant, they met as by vote directed, and after due deliberation unanimously agreed to submit the following:

"Resolutions for the consideration of the Society:

"*Resolve* 1. — That by the Statute Laws of this Commonwealth the Fire Wards have sole power in case of fire, either in their own town or in the vicinity thereof, to order out the engine; and in case of fire in town, to direct and appoint their stations, and apparatus of the enginemen with their engine, and of all other persons, for the purpose of extinguishing the fire and preventing its increase.

"*Resolve* 2. — That in case of fire out of town it is never expedient that more than one engine nor more than half the Fire Wards should leave the town to attend it.

"*Resolve* 3. — That in case of fire in Boston or Charles-

town it be recommended to the Fire Wards that they immediately order the enginemen to bring the engine and their buckets and their other furniture to the hotel, and that the Selectmen, the committee chosen by the society, and the Fire Wards, meet there forthwith, to determine on the proper means to be adopted.

"*Resolve* 4. — That in case of fire in the neighboring towns it is expedient that the Fire Wards repair thither with the engine and enginemen immediately, and without any delay whatever.

"*Resolve* 5. — That whenever it shall be necessary for the engine and enginemen to leave town to attend a fire, it be recommended to the Fire Wards to furnish wagons if possible for the purpose of transporting them.

"*Resolve* 6. — That the three ladders now owned by the town be kept in the following places, viz.: One upon the fence south of Mayo's Hotel; one upon the fence adjoining the meeting house; and one upon the fence west of the burying ground.

"*Resolve* 7. — That it be recommended to the town that three more ladders be added to the present stock, to be disposed of as the Fire Wards may direct.

"*Resolve* 8. — That it be recommended to the householders of the town that they burn their chimneys frequently in wet weather, and keep ladders to ascend the roof in case of fire.

"*Resolve* 9. — That it be recommended to the Fire Wards to provide themselves with the proper staff of office, to see that the engine-house be properly aired, and that the buckets and other implements belonging to the Engine Company be kept in good order for use.

"*Resolve* 10. — That at the annual meeting of this society in November, a committee of three shall be appointed therefrom to meet and confer with the Fire Wards and Selectmen, that the above resolutions be carried into effect.

" Signed DUDLEY HALL, } *Committee.*
" W. WARD. }

"Present at the meeting:
"Doctor Luther Stearns, Selectman and Fire Ward.
"Thatcher Magoun, Selectman.
"Nathl. Hall, Esqr., Fire Ward.
"Andrew Blanchard, Fire Ward.
"Jonathan Porter, Fire Ward.
"*Your Committee.*"

It was also voted that Resolve 8 be posted.

In their records no mention is made of fires at which they did service, although reports were made of the loss of buckets, bags, and screw keys, for which fines were levied and paid. If a member was absent at the first call of the roll he was fined twelve and one-half cents; if absent from the meeting he was fined fifty cents. The fines thus collected enabled them to have occasionally a collation or chowder after the meeting.

This was the first organization of which we have any knowledge formed for the purpose of assisting each other to extinguish fires in those early days. They continued their existence till the year 1849, when the society was dissolved.

There are now hanging in the carriage room of the hook and ladder house twenty-two of these leathern buckets, inscribed with the name of the owner and the year of his membership, which the present company prize as relics of "auld lang syne." Mr. Francis A. Wait has hanging in the front hall of his house three buckets inscribed as follows:

One, John A. Fulton	1785.
Two, Nathan Wait	1810.

The following are those in the hook and ladder carriage room:

Two, J. Swan	1785.
Two, Ebenezer Hall	1785.
Two, Benjamin Fisk	1800.
One, Daniel Swan	1821.

Two, Robert Bacon . . . . . 1822.
Two, Thomas R. Peck . . . . . 1827.
Two, Abnah Bartlett . . . . . no date.
One, E. Hall . . . . . " "
One, Daniel Lawrence . . . . . 1841.
One, Timothy Cotting . . . . . no date.
One, Samuel Chase . . . . . " "
Two, Andrew Blanchard, Columbian Eagle Fire Society.
One, Nathan Sawyer . . . . . no date.
One, Gov. Brooks . . . . . No. 1.
One, Gen'l Jackson . . . . . No. 2.

We have now in the service of the city an organization bearing the name of Washington Hook and Ladder Company which has been in existence for seventy-two years without interruption. From time to time this has been composed of many of our best and most influential citizens, who were imbued with the same sympathetic spirit that characterized the members of the former organization. They were organized under an act of the General Court of Massachusetts in the year 1828, by a charter duly signed by the Hon. Levi Lincoln as Governor, and Edward D. Bangs as Secretary of State. So far as I have been able to learn, this is the only Fire Company now holding a charter designating them a Company of Hook and Ladder Men. At the time of their organization there were two companies of firemen in the city of Philadelphia, called The Northern Liberty and The Hibernian Engine Company, who were organized with a charter signed by King George of England in 1750 and 1752, but these have long since ceased to be active members of the department, although continuing their organization to this day. Therefore I think this company can justly claim the honorable distinction of being the oldest active fire company in the United States, of which fact the city of Medford may justly be proud. By their records I learn that at a meeting of the Select-

men of the town of Medford July 26, 1829, the following persons were appointed to form and constitute a Company of Hook and Ladder Men, agreeable to an act of the General Court for that purpose, passed June 11, 1829, viz. : John B. Fitch, N. H. Bishop, A. S. Kent, George W. Porter, Horatio A. Smith, John Stimson, Eph'm Tufts, Jos. P. Hall, B. Richardson, T. R. Peck, Ebenz'r Chamberlain, Dexter Harlow, Elisha Livermore, Azor Richardson, and Thomas Jameson. At the first meeting of the company, July 8, 1829, they organized by the choice of John B. Fitch as moderator and George W. Porter as clerk, and then voted to adopt the following Constitution as a form of government :

CONSTITUTION OF THE HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY OF MEDFORD, INSTITUTED JULY 8, 1829.

Article 1.

On the third Monday of October there shall be an annual meeting of the company, at which time there shall be a Captain and Clerk, chosen by ballot. The Captain to preside as Moderator, and have power to call special meetings when he shall think proper. The Clerk to preside at any meeting in the absence of the Captain.

Article 2.

The business of the Clerk shall be to keep a true account of all fines due, and all other necessary records.

Article 3.

The business of the company shall be determined by a majority of the members present.

Article 4.

There shall be four quarterly meetings, viz. : on the third Mondays of January, April, July, and October at the ladder house, unless otherwise ordered by the company, at 4 o'clock P.M., at which time the roll shall be called, and absent members shall pay, if absent at

roll call, twenty-five cents, and if absent during the continuance of the meeting, fifty cents.

Article 5.

At special meetings every member shall be warned by the Clerk, and if any one is absent, he shall pay the same fine as at quarterly meetings, and a proportionate part of the expense of said meeting.

Article 6.

If any members shall leave the company at any quarterly meeting until adjourned, or at a fire until the ladders are housed, without permission of the Captain, he shall pay a fine of fifty cents.

Article 7.

If any member is absent at a fire, he shall pay a fine of one dollar, unless he shall make a reasonable excuse to the Clerk within ten days, which excuse and all others shall be submitted to the company.

Article 8.

One of the company shall be employed to keep the door of the ladder-house free from snow, he shall receive such compensation as shall be agreed on between him and the company, and if he neglects to do his duties, he shall forfeit for each and every offence fifty cents.

Article 9.

When any person is admitted a member of the company it shall be the duty of the Clerk to procure the approbation of the Selectmen, application to be made to the Selectmen at their first meeting after.

Article 10.

Every member shall settle his account with the Clerk at each quarterly meeting.

At a meeting of the Selectmen July 20, 1829, the preceding Rules and Articles as adopted by the Hook

and Ladder Company for their regulation and government were laid before the board and approved, and allowed as the rules and regulations of said company.

Signed A. BARTLETT,
Clerk.

Medford, April 19th, at a meeting of the company this day at the ladder house the following By-Laws were enacted.

That every person entering the company shall pay to the Clerk two dollars to be appropriated to defray the expenses of the company.

Attest GEORGE W. PORTER,
Clerk.

The first fire on record occurred Thursday, March 13, 1834, at Thatcher Magoun's shipyard; the second, Dec. 30, 1834, on Andrew Blanchard's lumber wharf.

These same rules and regulations have been in existence, and were rigidly adhered to by the present company until the department was made a permanent one.

In 1839 the town of Medford petitioned the Legislature for an act of incorporation for their fire department. This suggested to the Legislature the importance of considering the whole subject; and on the 9th of April the present law was passed. The next day they authorized the town of Medford to organize a fire department according to their petition, and the act is as follows:

"An Act to establish a Fire Department in the Town of Medford.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

"The Selectmen of the Town of Medford are hereby authorized to establish a fire department in said town in the manner and according to the provisions prescribed

in an act to regulate fire departments passed on the 9th day of April 1839, and the said fire department when so established and the several members thereof, and all the officers and companies appointed by them, and the said town of Medford and the inhabitants thereof shall be subject to all the duties and liabilities, and be entitled to all the privileges and exemptions specified in said act, so far as the same relates to them respectively."

This act was submitted to the town to be accepted and approved, and accordingly the present fire department was organized in due form.

There were three engine companies formed under this act, viz.: Governor Brooks No.1, General Jackson No 2, and J. Q. Adams No. 4.

The Governor Brooks No. 1 was located where the public pound now is on Back street. The Selectmen appointed a company consisting of twenty-nine members, who on the thirteenth day of November, 1835, met and organized by the choice of the following officers: George L. Stearns, clerk; James T. Floyd, foreman; David Kimball, assistant foreman; and Luther Angier, treasurer. The company continued its organization till July 2, 1839, when there was an insufficient number to work the engine at a fire. They chose a committee to wait on the Selectmen, make a statement of the condition of the company, and request that it be disbanded. It was also voted, "that the foreman, Mr. John T. White, surrender the engine 'Governor Brooks' and whatever moneys there may be in the hands of the Treasurer to the Selectmen to be disposed of as they may judge expedient."

On July 3, the next day after disbandment, the Selectmen appointed twenty-nine men to take charge of the engine, and on July 22 they met and chose Mr. John T. White, foreman, Joseph James, assistant foreman, and Daniel H. Forbes, clerk and treasurer. They continued the organization till March 17, 1858, when by order of

the engineers they were disbanded for disobeying the order of the engineers at a fire on the plains, Mr. Hugh Nugent's house on Cherry street.

Engine No. 2, "General Jackson," was first located in a building near the Meeting-House brook at the foot of Marm Symond's hill, and after a few years was relocated in the rear of the First Parish meeting-house. They by their records were organized in 1808, and held their first meeting at the house of Mr. J. Johnson, where it was voted that Zaccheus Wyman be master of the engine and James T. Floyd be clerk. The following persons were appointed by the Selectmen to constitute the engine company, viz.: Zaccheus Wyman, James T. Floyd, John Symmes 3d, John Dickson, William Harris, Jonathan Brooks, Patrick Roach, Joseph Bucknam, Joseph Wyman, Jr., Isaac Floyd, Isaac Brooks, Leonard Bucknam, Samuel Teel Jr., Daniel Wier.

In their records the engine is sometimes called the Western Engine Company. They held their meetings the first Monday in every month at the houses of the members or at the hotels in the town.

In January, 1820, the Selectmen appointed the following persons as members of the company, viz.: William Butters, Ebenezer Putnam, Cornelius Bigelow, Abial Butters, Henry Woodwarth, James T. Floyd Jr., Benjamin Floyd 2d, John M. Kuhn, Oliver Wyman, William E. Otis, Marshal Symmes, Sewall Pierce, Thomas Calf, Edward Hudley.

Thus it seems that the Selectmen, with the approval of the engineers, appointed new men every year or two which was in accordance with the act of the General Court.

This company voted to disband on the twenty-second day of December, 1859, and so notified the Board of Engineers.

Engine No. 4, "J. Q. Adams," was located at the Ship Yard nearly opposite Park street, and having no

suction hose was used for the watering of ships in course of construction.

Engine No. 3, "Washington," was organized in 1855, and at a subsequent meeting the following officers were elected : Joseph W. Mitchell, foreman ; Jonathan Oldham, first assistant foreman ; Almon Black, second assistant foreman ; Samuel N. Sylvester, clerk ; and Hiram Simmons, steward. They continued their organization till the year 1868. This company was composed of persons who had seen service in the other companies of the department, many of whom were prominent in the higher offices of the town. They also contributed largely in filling the quotas of the town in the Civil War, many never returning to their homes again. Capt. Joseph W. Mitchell remained at the head of the company during the entire time of their organization, and was highly respected and esteemed. The members of the company were ever watchful and zealous for the welfare of those who had gone to the front in their country's service, and careful that those left behind did not suffer. Money, time, and service were not spared in endeavors to show an appreciation of the sacrifice made for their country's cause, and the same may be said of all the companies, for members enlisted from them all, and many after having faithfully served their country returned home to the peaceful pursuits of civil life.

In the year 1862, by vote of the town, the Selectmen caused to be constructed in different parts of the town cisterns or reservoirs to be used only in case of fire for the engines to draft from.

Thus was service rendered to the town by the volununteers of the department till the introduction of steam fire engines, which in a measure dispensed with the services of those who had bound themselves together for the love of rendering service to those in distress and danger from the fiery element.

HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

AN EARLY SCOURGE IN MEDFORD.

STAFFORD HAMMOND, '02.

[Prepared in connection with work in American History.]

FEW of the many ills which the early settlers of Medford fell heir to caused such devastation among them as the smallpox. The ravages which this disease committed among the settlers can hardly be conceived by the present generation. It was more dreaded than the raids of the savage Pequot or Tarrantine, and no disease excited so quick and sharp alarm among them.

The smallpox at intervals had raged among the Indians in this section of the country since the early part of the seventeenth century, and in 1633 it carried off as one of its victims the Indian chief, Sagamore John, who lived with his tribe near Mystic lake. His death was a great blow to the early settlers, for he had granted much land to them, and had protected them from hostile Indian attacks.

The first entry [1] in the Town Records as to the prevalence of smallpox in Medford is dated 1721. The warrant for a town meeting called all freeholders to assemble for a consideration of the preventing of the spread of smallpox. The occasion for issuing this warrant seems to have been that some member of the family of Samuel Polley had the smallpox. In the meeting it was voted that the road be turned and absolutely closed from the house of Jacob Pierce to that of Samuel Polley, so long as it was needed, and a sufficient guard be kept at the Polley house. At this same meeting it was also voted that the town should furnish a house to receive any persons who were taken with the smallpox and to keep them there until they recovered. Thus the early Medford settlers had solved the best way of attacking the disease, that of absolute isolation.

[1] Town Records, Volume II., pages 58, 66.

In 1752 [1] another epidemic made its appearance. Although this was slight, yet it was attended with the usual horrors of this loathsome disease. On May 11, 1752, the freeholders voted that the Selectmen be empowered to provide some suitable house or houses for the reception of all persons who were taken with the smallpox, or those who were suspected.

It appeared again in 1760, in the town, and the only record that we have of it is in the Treasurer's report. The report states that on Feb. 19, 1760, £5, 1 shilling and 8 pence was raised to Mr. William Tufts and another townsman, for watching at the smallpox house. The treasurer also adds, "to myself and horse to Charlestown for the Doctor for Thomas Linch $2^{s}/8$." Another part of the report also states that money was paid to certain persons who furnished Captain Willis and other persons with blankets and other furnishings during their illness. One of the victims of this epidemic was the schoolmaster, William Whitmore, who died March 10, 1760, and because of his death the schools were closed till the July following.

The smallpox, after having been for four years in abeyance, renewed its visitation in 1764.[2] The warrant, which was issued "in his Majesty's name," April 13, 1764, called all the freeholders together for a consideration of the raging epidemic. At the meeting it was voted that a gate should be erected across the main road, and a smoke house be built near the Medford great bridge (which is now Cradock bridge). This house was erected on the west side of Main street, and about forty rods from Colonel Royall's house. It was also voted that another should be erected at the West End, and suitable guards be kept at the town's expense. The Selectmen were to take full responsibility for the erection of the fences and houses, and were to provide a guard of such persons as they saw fit. The idea of erecting a gate across the main road was a good one,

[1] Town Records, Volume III., page 80.
[2] Town Records, Volume III., page 131.

because it prevented travellers from Boston and vicinity, which was the base of smallpox epidemics in Massachusetts, from entering Medford without being unceremoniously stopped and fumigated at the smoke house. In the Treasurer's report one item states that Mr. Timothy Waite was paid £1 16 shillings 4½ pence, "for Work & some Nails for the Smoke House & some work at the School House." Another item states that 6 shillings were paid Doctor Rand "for a Night to Capt. Blodget when taken with ye Small Pox." Also another item states that £14, 8 shillings were paid Captain Eben Morrow "for Tending the Smoke House from ye 16th of April to the Ninth day of June 1764 both days included @ 6^{s} per day."

Another town meeting was held May 24, 1778,[1] to see what the town would do concerning an inoculating hospital. Previous to this a hospital of this kind had been situated at Point Shirley for the use of all people in Boston and vicinity. Inoculation had been introduced in Boston in June, 1721, by the Rev. Cotton Mather, who, hearing of the great success it had had in Europe and the Orient, interested himself in it, and thus introduced it in Boston. It met with violent opposition hardly second in bitterness to that of the witchcraft period; but he faced the fury of the mob, and did noble service in its defence in spite of threats of personal violence. Inoculation was beginning to reap success about 1778, so Medford people desired to have a hospital of their own. When the British troops were besieged in Boston, smallpox broke out among them, and after they evacuated the town it raged among the inhabitants, and thus spread to Medford. The townsmen decided to attack this epidemic by inoculation. It was voted that the town should provide a house for the reception of any person who was taken with smallpox in the "Natural Way." It was also voted that if the Selectmen should find any person who had been attending a

[1] Town Records, Volume III., page 239.

sick person, they should give that person liberty to go to the smallpox house and be inoculated under the proper restrictions.

The epidemic again visited Medford in 1788.[1] The freeholders were called together for a consideration of what the town should do concerning the removal of the William Cutter family, who had the smallpox, and what the town should do concerning the establishment of an inoculating hospital for two months. It was "voated" to remove all persons who were subject to the smallpox to a suitable house, subject to the will of the Selectmen. It was voted that if any person "chanced to have the smallpox" he might obtain permission to be inoculated in such a house as might be obtained for that purpose. This order also provided that if a person desired to be inoculated he must pay the expenses of this house for two months. Under these severe regulations it was not likely that many persons were inoculated.

A petition from Governor Brooks and others relative to further inoculation was discussed at a town meeting in 1789 It was decided that any person could be inoculated if he desired to pay the expenses. It was also voted that the Selectmen could put a stop to inoculation if they thought it expedient.

Another epidemic made its appearance in 1792.[2] At a meeting of the townsmen in September of that year it was voted to take all possible measures to prevent the spread of the existing epidemic, and to provide houses for those who were taken with the disease. The town meeting voted to provide a house, and decided to prosecute to the fullest extent any person who inoculated or was inoculated. This method of treatment failed in Medford as elsewhere, and no further measures of this sort were taken until the introduction of vaccination.

It will be seen that Medford has had her full share of the burden of the smallpox which caused such devastation in early Massachusetts.

[1] Town Records, Volume IV., page 65.
[2] Town Records, Volume III., page 99.

SOME UNPUBLISHED SCHOOL REPORTS.

[The annual reports of the schools for the years 1835-6, 1837-8, 1838-9, which were read in town meeting, but never printed, have been published in the "Register" of October, 1899. The report for 1839-40 is not on file, but a special one made November, 1840, is among the papers in the office of the city clerk as well as the regular report for the year 1841-42, both of which are here given. — Ed.]

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE, NOV. 9, 1840.

Accepted by the Town.

Your Committee in the discharge of their duty beg leave to offer this extra Report : —

To propose to the Town some plan for the accommodation of the numerous scholars attending our public schools. —

With the exception of Miss Abbott's school at the west end of the town there is scarcely a seat in any of the Public Schools unoccupied ; while a large number of scholars are expected to come in as usual after Thanksgiving. Your Committee have thought of two modes of overcoming this difficulty — 1st. to build a spacious school-house in the center of the Town, and enlarge the one south of the river. — or — 2nd. to place the minimum age at which children may be admitted to the public schools at five years instead of four. — The former course would be attended with a heavy expense, which the town at present is ill-prepared to meet: besides, were the Town ready to incur the expense, the school-houses could not be prepared in season to accommodate the schools the coming winter : moreover, the South school-house is so incommoded by the smoke and oil of a neighboring factory that it is doubtful in the opinion of your committee whether it ever *ought* to be enlarged, or even retained as a school-house unless the nuisance can be removed. — Your Com. therefore, recommend the latter course. — It is a well-attested fact that many children are injured in body and mind by the

confinement of a school-room at the tender age of four years; and it is very questionable whether children admitted to the public schools at four years, will be farther advanced at eight, than those admitted at five. There are some two hundred scholars in the schools between four and eight years of age. Admit none under five, and you reduce that number about one quarter part, and will be able to accommodate the remainder for several years to come. —

With these views, your Committee recommend as a matter of expediency to admit no scholars to the public schools, under five years of age. —

GALEN JAMES,
SAMUEL GREGG,
JAMES O. CURTIS,
ALEXANDER GREGG,
MARTIN BURRIDGE,
School Com.

MEDFORD, Nov. 7, 1840.

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

Accepted March 7, 1842.

The School Committee report: That they have given earnest attention to their arduous trust. The experience of every month gives them a deeper sense of the importance of frequently visiting and carefully watching over the interests of the public schools. Accordingly they have not been sparing of time or labour. They have held regular meetings monthly, and frequently met at other times, when the welfare of the schools called for special attention. In addition to the usual public examinations, some part of the Committee have visited every school at least once a month, generally much oftener. And from all this actual observation they are fully satisfied that there has been a progressive improvement in the condition of the Schools collectively through the past year. A spirit of order & decency prevails. The progress of the scholars indicates

great dilligence in them and in their Instructors. The discipline is excellent without severity; and the method of teaching is most thorough and accurate. In these respects it is believed that our schools will bear a comparison with any similar institutions in the State.

It is a well known fact that children are apt to fall into idle habits and soon come to take little interest in Schools, which are neglected by their parents. The Committee cannot too strongly urge upon their fellow citizens the importance of visiting the public schools often, that they may encourage and stimulate both Teachers and Pupils by their attention, and see for themselves in what manner & with what results their money is expended. They should remember that their outlay for the purposes of education is invested in the character and best interest of the rising generation; and, that, if well employed, it will yield a return richer than any other expenditure. If parents would make the most of their advantages, let them cherish in their children a profound respect for the character and authority of their Instructors; and be careful that they are constant & punctual in their attendance at School. Much harm is often heedlessly done by complaining sometimes in the presence of pupils — without a sufficient knowledge of facts.

The Committee are of opinion that the appropriation of the last year has been profitably expended. They recommend the continuance of the present organization of the Public Schools, the usefulness of which becomes every year more apparent. They should be cherished as the pride and hope of the Town. Let every effort be made to sustain them at the highest point of excellence, that they may afford to all the means of a thorough practical education; that, in these seminaries, the children of the poor and the rich may be trained together, with feelings and principles in harmony with the genius of our institutions, which recognize no distinctions but such as arise from character.

In this connexion the Committee beg leave to suggest to parents, and other friends of improvment, that for a trifling expense they can have access to a well chosen library, now large and every year growing in value and importance. Good books are safe companions; and a relish for them is the source at once of the highest & the cheapest enjoyment. And this is not all. It is impossible to calculate the amount of knowledge which children may derive from these works of the living and the dead, before they arrive at maturity. Nothing can do so much as a habit of reading to cherish purity of character, to promote intelligence and carry out plans of public improvement indefinitely beyond the point where it must be left by the Public Schools.

The number of Scholars has increased so considerably that it has been necessary to provide additional accommodations in some of the schoolrooms; and these are still too small for convenience & comfort. The number of pupils is at present,

In the High School 75	Centre Grammar School
East Grammar School	South Primary School
East Primary School	West Primary School.

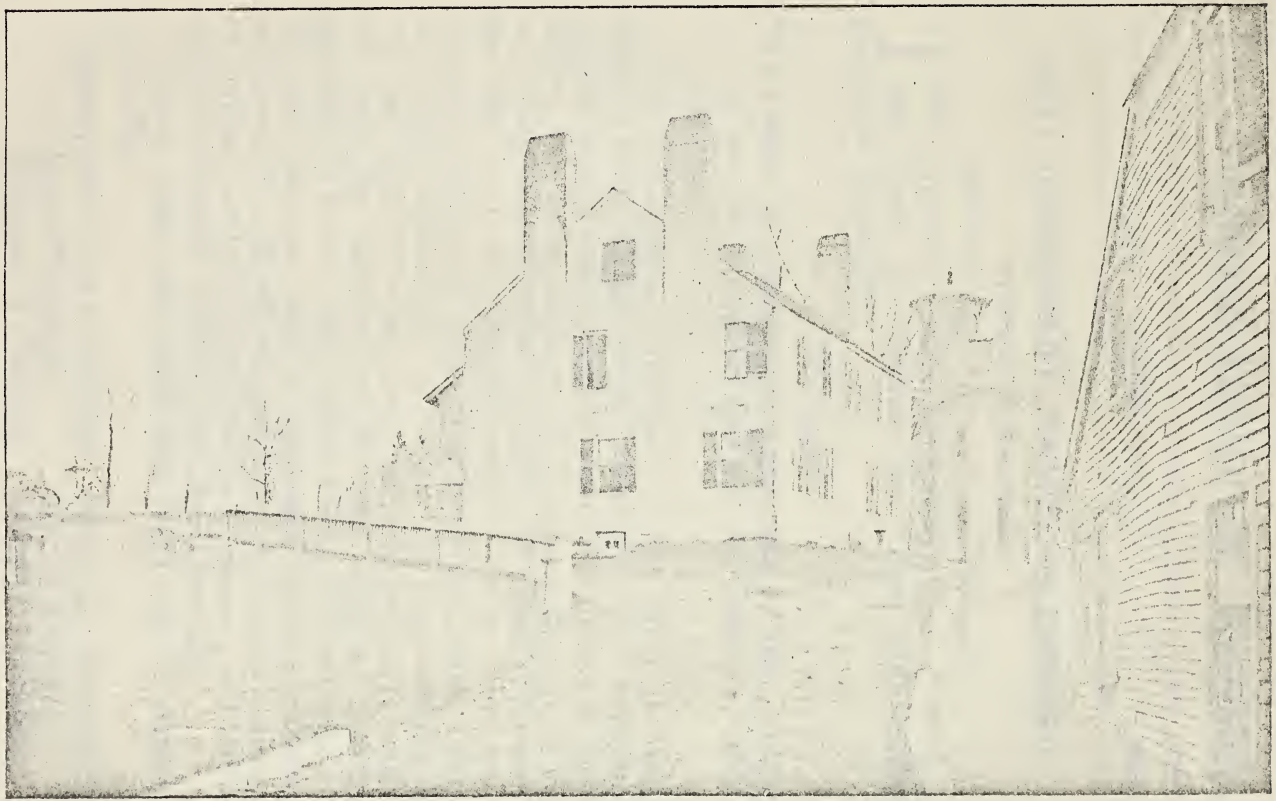
During the last year the Committee have been obliged to make several alterations in School houses in order to accommodate the constantly increasing numbers of Scholars. And they would suggest that some of them are too small for convenience and comfort.

To meet the expenses of the Schools for the present year the Committee recommend the appropriation of $3,200.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ALEXANDER GREGG,
C. STETSON,
H. BALLOU, 2d,
JOS. W. MITCHELL,
BENJ. MOORE,
JOHN W. BACON,
A. R. BAKER.
} *School Committee.*

MEDFORD, March 7, 1842.



MAJOR JONATHAN WADE'S HOUSE, PASTURE HILL LANE, MEDFORD.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. IV. APRIL, 1901. NO. 2.

FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY IN MEDFORD.

BY PARKER R. LITCHFIELD.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, Feb. 18, 1901.]

THE following petition appears to be one of the first movements to organize the "First Universalist Society in Medford":

"PETITION.

"*To Luther S. Cushing, Esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace, within and for the County of Middlesex:*

"The subscribers, inhabitants of the town of Medford, in said county, being members of a religious society in said town, being duly qualified to vote in town affairs, and being desirous of incorporating ourselves, according to an act of the Legislature, passed February the 10th, A.D. 1824, hereby request you to issue your warrant, directed to some suitable person, whose name is hereunto subscribed, for calling the first meeting of the said religious society, requiring said person to notify and warn the members of the said religious society, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at some time and place, as shall be appointed in such warrant, to choose all such officers, and transact all such business as parishes are by law authorized to choose, and transact in the months of March and April annually.

"Given under our hands this tenth day of March, A.D. 1831.

"Signed, WILLIAM S. BARKER. WILLARD BUTTERS.
JOHN WHEELER. MILES SAMPSON.
NATHAN W. WAITE. JOHN H. HASKELL.

Thomas P. Hunt.	Moses Merrill.
Waldo Belknap.	John Sawtell.
Timothy Cotting.	Amherst Josslyn.
George Sawyer.	William Peak.
John Johnson.	Leonard Bucknam.
James Hyde, Jr.	John Ewell.
Joshua Bailey.	Charles Ewell.
Benjamin Walker.	Henry T. Ewell.
James Ford.	Joseph Richardson.

James Curtis."

I have deemed it of sufficient consideration to give this petition in full, together with the names of the petitioners, to show that the society was organized in due form of law, and to make a record of the names of the persons who were the originators and prime movers in the formation of this organization.

Justice Cushing was evidently prompt in business, for on the seventh day after receiving this petition he issued his warrant to Moses Merrill, one of the petitioners, as follows:

"Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

"Middlesex, ss.

" *To Moses Merrill of Medford, in said County, Greeting:*

"Whereas, certain persons, namely [here follow the names of the twenty-five persons already named], inhabitants of said town of Medford, duly qualified to vote in town affairs, and members of a religious society in said town, have requested me to issue a warrant for calling the first meeting of the said religious society, directed to some suitable person, who is a member thereof, requiring him to notify and warn the members of the said religious society, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at some time and place, as shall be appointed in such warrant, to choose all such officers, and transact

all such business, as parishes are by law authorized to choose and transact, in the months of March and April annually.

"Now, therefore, you are hereby directed and required to notify and warn the persons above mentioned, and all others members of the said religious society, duly qualified as aforesaid, by reading this warrant in their presence, and hearing, or leaving a true copy thereof at their last and usual place of abode, seven days at least before the time of meeting, to assemble at Kendall's Hotel, in said Medford, on Tuesday, the twenty-second day of March, instant, at seven of the clock in the afternoon, then and there to act upon the following matters, namely :

"First. To agree and determine upon a name by which the said religious society shall be organized and known."

Then follow three other articles of the warrant relating to the choice of the usual officers of the parish.

The warrant was received and served in due form, and in pursuance thereof the members met in Kendall's Hotel, March 22, 1831, and were called to order by Justice Cushing, and the members proceeded to act on the first article, when it was "voted that this society shall be organized and known as the First Universalist Society in Medford."

Ballot was then taken for clerk, and William S. Barker was elected and duly qualified by Justice Cushing.

A prudential committee was elected, consisting of Timothy Cotting, Leonard Bucknam, and George Sawyer.

Miles Sampson, James Ford, and John Wheeler were elected assessors, Timothy Cotting elected treasurer, and William S. Barker elected collector.

We now have the society fully organized and ready to enter upon its important work, that its influence, with the other religious organizations of this town, should

make the community of old historic Medford religious, peaceful, and law abiding, and as such it has ever proved.

In 1832 a church was built on Forest street. A few possibly of our old inhabitants may recall the old church building with its flight of steps on the outside leading to the auditorium in the second story. (No record of the dedication can be found.)

In 1850 the church was remodelled and enlarged. The long steps in front were removed, and an entrance made in the first story; fifteen feet eastward was added to its length, and other improvements made for the convenience of the society, which had increased in numbers and usefulness.

In 1886 other alterations and improvements were made. The church building was raised and the vestry brought up with the grade of the land, making it light and cheerful; a pastor's room was arranged with a convenient entrance to the pulpit platform; the organ was moved from the gallery to the east end of the church; new pews and windows replaced the old ones, making the appearance of the auditorium much more pleasant and attractive as well as convenient for its work as a church.

PASTORS.

In April, 1831, the Rev. Winslow Wright was installed as the first pastor, and after four years of faithful labor he resigned in April, 1835. Soon after his resignation the Rev. Joseph Banfield was made his successor, and remained as pastor for three years.

The Rev. Dr. Hosea Ballou was made pastor of the society in 1838. There may be members of this society who remember the kind, pleasant manners of this truly Christian man, who always had a pleasant greeting and a kind word for every one.

Dr. Ballou remained as pastor until August, 1853, when he was called to the presidency of Tufts College.

In February, 1854, the Rev. G. V. Maxham accepted

an invitation to become the pastor of the parish, and in April was ordained. He continued with the society until May, 1858.

The pulpit was supplied from Sunday to Sunday for one year, when the Rev. C. B. Lombard entered upon the duties of pastor, beginning May 1, 1859. At a parish meeting held Dec. 4, 1860, his letter of resignation was accepted, to take effect Feb. 1, 1861.

Nov. 11, 1861, the Rev. Benjamin H. Davis was engaged to supply the pulpit until October, 1862. At this time he was engaged as pastor, and labored here with success until March, 1867. His earnest and logical treatment of his subjects in the pulpit was fully appreciated by his hearers, and without doubt produced good and lasting effects. He always spoke without manuscript.

For two years our pulpit was supplied by the Rev. T. J. Greenwood and Rev. Eben Francis.

In March, 1869, Rev. R. P. Ambler was engaged, and remained until December, 1873, a faithful, conscientious pastor.

May, 1874, Rev. J. T. Farnsworth became our pastor and resigned in June, 1875. The Rev. T. J. Sawyer, with other clergymen, supplied the pulpit until May, 1876.

The Rev. Mr. Haskell was the next pastor engaged, and remained here nearly two years. At the conclusion of his services the Rev. D. L. R. Libby was installed as pastor. and resigned after two years' labor.

The semi-centennial anniversary of our church and parish was celebrated Oct. 6, 1881, an occasion that will long be remembered with pleasure by all. Services were held afternoon and evening. In the afternoon the historical address of the society was given by the pastor, Rev. Daniel L. R. Libby; history of the Sunday-school by the superintendent, Parker R. Litchfield; these, with reading of the Scripture, prayer, and music, with an original hymn by Mrs. Libby, made the service

very interesting. At the close of the afternoon meeting supper was served in the vestry. Toasts were responded to by the Rev. W. A. Start, Rev. J. M. Usher, Rev. Mr. Potter, Rev. R. Perry Bush, Rev. William H. Rider, Rev. Dr. Emerson, Rev. C. W. Biddle, Rev. Charles Skinner, and Rev. Henry C. De Long, of the Unitarian Church, Rev. G. C. Osgood, of the Methodist Church, and Rev. J. P. Abbott, of the Baptist Church. Addresses and music, and an original hymn by Dr. J. G. Adams, filled the programme for the evening.

Letters were read from some of the ex-pastors unable to be present. Rev. G. V. Maxham, Rev. Richard Eddy, and Rev. Eben Francis were present, and made appropriate remarks.

In the fall of 1882 the Rev. R. P. Ambler was again called to our church, and remained until 1886, when he removed to Florida, where he still lives.

At this time the Rev. J. B. Reardon, attending the Divinity School at Tufts College, was engaged to supply the pulpit, and during this engagement the remodelling of the church was effected as already alluded to.

The alterations having been completed, the church was re-dedicated Feb. 1, 1887, when appropriate services were held afternoon and evening. In the afternoon Rev. Charles W. Biddle, D.D., of North Cambridge, delivered an able address — subject, "The Power of Expression in Christian Faith and Fidelity." He was followed by Rev. A. A. Miner, D.D., of Boston, and Prof. Charles H. Leonard, of Tufts College, who each delivered able addresses, followed by a general conference.

At 6 o'clock, by invitation of the ladies of the Society, about two hundred and fifty persons partook of a bountiful collation.

In the evening the dedicatory services were held as follows: Invocation by Rev. Henry C. De Long, of Medford; Scripture reading by Rev. F. A. Gray, of Arlington; sermon by Rev. Richard Eddy, of Melrose;

dedicatory prayer by President E. H. Capen, of Tufts College; address to the parish by Rev. S. W. Sample, of Chelsea; benediction by the pastor, Rev. J. B. Reardon. Additional interest was added to the ceremonies by excellent music from the choir and congregation both afternoon and evening. It proved a deeply interesting occasion, and the remodelled church was again opened for the worship of God, and to help in the continued building of a Christian community. Mr. Reardon remained here until April, 1887.

Prof. Charles H. Leonard had temporary charge of the pulpit until January, 1889, when it was voted to invite Rev. Warren S. Woodbridge to become our pastor, and he commenced his services in April. He proved a faithful pastor, and was instrumental in establishing the Young People's Christian Union, which has greatly interested our young people. Brother Woodbridge continued with us until December, 1893, when he resigned, and became Professor of Applied Christianity in the Divinity School, Tufts College.

Soon after the resignation of Rev. W. S. Woodbridge, an engagement was made with the Rev. W. H. Dearborn, who for many years was pastor of the Universalist society in Hartford, Conn. We were much favored with the ability of this pastor, who remained with us until October, 1898.

At a parish meeting held in January, 1899, it was voted unanimously to extend a call to the Rev. Clarence L. Eaton, who graduated the previous year from Tufts Divinity School. He immediately commenced his services as pastor, and remains so at this date. On the 16th day of March he was ordained and installed with appropriate ceremonies by the following clergymen:

Invocation, by Charles H. Leonard, D.D.; responsive reading, by Rev. Edson Reifsnider and the people; reading of the Scriptures, by Rev. R. Perry Bush; sermon, by Rev. Frederick W. Hamilton; prayer and act of ordination, by Rev. Benjamin F. Eaton; the fel-

lowship of the church, by A. J. Patterson, D.D. ; the welcome of the society, by Rosewell B. Lawrence, chairman of the parish committee ; the welcome of the Medford churches, by Rev. Henry C. De Long ; the charge to the minister, by Charles H. Leonard, D.D. ; the charge to the people, by Prof. Warren S. Woodbridge.

The act of ordination was deeply interesting, made so from the fact that a father was ordaining his son to the work of the Christian ministry.

His address was earnest and impressive, making clear the importance of the position this young servant of the Lord was about to assume, and no doubt was fully appreciated by the son.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY, MEDFORD.

There appears on the first page of the Church Record Book this entry :

"The church connected with the First Universalist Society in Medford was formed on Sunday, Jan. 19, 1834, and organized by choosing Messrs. Timothy Cotting and James O. Curtis deacons."

It was publicly recognized Wednesday evening, January 29. The Lord's supper was first administered by Winslow W. Wright, pastor, on the last Sunday in February following. The following is the uniting compact :

"COMPACT.

"We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do unite ourselves together as members of the Christian church connected with the First Universalist Society in Medford.

"By so doing we profess :

"1st. To believe that 'there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time.'

"2d. To esteem it a duty and a privilege to obey the command of Jesus Christ by celebrating the Lord's supper in remembrance of him.

"3d. That we may keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, the unanimous consent of the members shall be obtained before any person shall be admitted to this church."

Each one of these articles seems worthy of comment.

With relation to the first: One who is familiar with the language of Universalism to-day will have the thought brought forcibly to mind that the Universalist church in common with all other churches has made a long advance in the better understanding of its own faith since this compact was drawn up, nearly seventy years ago.

The second article is remarkable for what it leaves out rather than for what it puts in. There is no obligation of conduct or character mentioned save this sacred one of observing the Lord's supper.

The third article of the compact is a rule of government rather than a basis of fellowship, but it served its purpose for nearly ten years, for not until Oct. 24, 1843, was this simple compact supplemented by a code of by-laws.

For the first eight years the records relate only to the admission of new members; but from 1842 until the present time there has been an increasing tendency to give full details as to what occurred at each meeting.

In 1850 appears this record showing that a happy relation existed between this society and the First Parish:

"Our meeting-house and vestry being under repair, and our church and congregation holding public service on Sundays with the First Parish (Rev. Mr. Pierpont) in this town, there were no regular meetings of the church in May and June."

May 22, 1851, it was voted to receive Bro. Sumner

Ellis. This man subsequently won fame as a minister and writer in the Universalist church.

May 4, 1862, this doleful record appears:

". . . A cloud seems to have settled down upon the church — the awful *cloud of war*, which has enveloped the whole nation in its blighting, withering grasp; and inasmuch as this church has been accessory or conniving to it (with the majority of other churches throughout the land), so is the curse following us in the loss of the pure, peaceful, quickening spirit of the Prince of Peace.

"After we shall have taken for the curing of our sick spirits the bitter medicine of war and its desolating consequences, may God grant unto us a refreshing return of the *real* spirit of charity and forgiveness, which will enable us to dwell in the realm of Peace forever with Christ our great Head, when our swords will be beaten into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks, and *all* souls shall know and praise the Lord.

"Oh, when shall Universalists learn to *live out* the glorious doctrine of *forgiveness*, which has been vouchsafed to them, instead of endeavoring to practise continually the old and harsher doctrines of *justice* and *punishment*. May our eyes be opened to a consciousness of our glaring inconsistency, and as a consequence our souls be humbled to that condition requisite to the reception of the spirit of Christ!"

First observance of ordinances, Lord's supper, Feb. 23, 1834.

Baptism (by sprinkling), Catherine Coolidge Brooks, June 26, 1842; (by immersion) Mrs. Catherine M. Hall, June 30, 1844. (This was probably the only case of baptism by immersion in our church and took place at the site of the Mystic ford.)

Children's Sunday and baptism. The first record and probably the first observance was July 2, 1868, when twenty-five children were baptized. This service was instituted in 1858 by Rev. C. H. Leonard, at that

time pastor in Chelsea, now dean of Tufts Divinity School.

One of the most delightful occasions in the history of the First Universalist Church was that of Friday evening, Nov. 3, 1899, when the members of the church assembled for their reunion.

The vestry had been beautifully decorated with palms and potted chrysanthemums, loaned by Mr. John M. Leahy. Several members over eighty years of age were present, as well as a number of former members now living in other cities and States. The reception hour afforded pleasant opportunity for renewing old acquaintances.

At a quarter-past seven the company, numbering sixty-five, were assembled about the tables, and joined in singing "Blest be the Tie that Binds." The divine blessing was invoked by Rev. E. C. Bolles, of Melrose. The company then sat down at the well-filled tables, and an hour only too quickly passed in feasting and sociability.

The pastor, Rev. C. L. Eaton, welcomed the guests of the evening on behalf of the church, and declared that the purpose of the evening was to strengthen and deepen the bonds of Christian friendship. The roll was then called and the hymn, "I Love the Church," was sung.

The pastor then presented Mr. P. R. Litchfield, senior deacon of the church, as toast-master. The following toasts were given: "Our Common Work," responded to by Rev. E. C. Bolles, D.D.; "A Message from the Watch Tower," Rev. C. H. Leonard, D.D.; "Our Common Bond," Mrs. E. L. Houghton; "The Church and the Parish," Mr. R. B. Lawrence; "The Church and the Individual," Rev. E. L. Houghton; "Our Problem," Prof. W. S. Woodbridge; "Our Young People," Miss Anna B. Archibald; "Our Church," Deacon E. F. Roberts; "The Future," Mr. T. Howard Barnes. Letters from former members and pastors added much to the interest of the occasion.

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The exercises closed at a late hour with the singing "God be with You till we Meet again," and the benediction. Not only was the gathering delightful because of its sociability, but also most helpful because of its inspiring religious spirit.

UNIVERSALIST SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

This school commenced soon after the formation of the parish in 1831, seemingly without special form, but springing up from the weekly gathering of the worshippers of the church; these interested persons looking about to see what good they could do soon formed themselves into a Sunday-school. It was evidently through the missionary spirit of these good people, who could not confine themselves to the work of a church alone, that our school became established.

For a few years the sessions were held some eight months of the year, as some of the teachers and scholars came from Somerville, Arlington, and Winchester, and to travel in the winter time was not quite as convenient as it is now.

The catechism of the day was used in the school.

The vestry not being finished, the sessions were held in the church auditorium.

The school after being fully established numbered about fifty, but in a few years it began to increase.

We are unable to find any records dating back of 1838, but have gathered a few facts from time to time as above.

In May, 1838, the teachers of the Sunday-school held a meeting for the purpose of forming a "Sabbath School Teachers' Association, whose object shall be their own mutual improvement, and the good of the school committed to their care."

At this time a committee was chosen, consisting of George Gay, James O. Curtis, and Mrs. Hepsibah Cotting, to "draft a constitution and report at a subsequent meeting."

In July this committee made report, and a constitution was adopted to govern the association.

The first article reads as follows: "The society shall be called the Universalist Sabbath School Teachers' Association." Then follow articles two to ten inclusive, naming the officers to be elected annually, the duties of said officers, and other matters pertaining to the interest and government of the school.

For a number of years the association held its meetings at the residences of the members every two weeks, and according to the records the time was fully occupied, not only in the transaction of business, but in their own mutual improvement, by carefully considering portions of the Scripture, previously decided upon, under the direction and assistance of the pastor.

It is evident that Mr. James O. Curtis was the first superintendent, but there is no record to show how long he held the position. From the formation of the Teachers' Association we have records in full upon that matter.

LIST OF NAMES OF THE MEMBERS, MAY, 1838.

Elisha Stetson, Supt.	Mrs. Hebsibah Cotting, Asst. Supt.
James O. Curtis, Librarian.	George Gay, Secretary.

Teachers.

Rev. Hosea Ballou.	Elbridge Teel.	Charles S. Jacobs.
Alanson Hadley.	Benjamin Moor.	Miss R. Turner.
Miss D. Mansfield.	Miss M. Wait.	Miss Betsey Keen.
Miss M. Keen.	Miss E. Graves.	Miss N. Tufts.
Mrs. James O. Curtis.	Mrs. James Tufts.	Mrs. H. Mitchell.

In after years these names may be of considerable interest to those looking up church history.

Mr. Stetson served as superintendent for one year. In June, 1839, Mr. James O. Curtis was again chosen superintendent, and was elected annually from that time until April, 1857, thus serving eighteen consecutive years. Mrs. Cotting was elected for three consecutive years. Mrs. Lusanna Wellington was elected assistant

superintendent in March, 1842, and annually elected to that position for nineteen years. Rev. James M. Usher was elected superintendent, April, 1857, and served until August, 1859, when Elisha Stetson was chosen for the remaining part of the year. In April, 1860, Mr. Parker R. Litchfield was elected superintendent, and served in that office for thirty-five consecutive years. At the annual meeting in April, 1895, Mr. T. Howard Barnes was elected superintendent, and has been elected each year since that time.

For several years previous to 1872 no assistant was elected. In 1873 Mr. M. Warren was elected and served two years. Mr. Moses Mellen was then elected for five consecutive years. Rosewell B. Lawrence was chosen, April, 1879, and has served in that position to the present date, making a continuous service of twenty-one years.

The association was active, continually arranging work to be done for the welfare of the young, occasionally canvassing the town to find children who were not attending any Sunday-school, and is an active association to this time.

The school itself has always been self-supporting, and has contributed money to charitable and other purposes, gave quite a sum towards the cost of altering the church building, and has in many ways made itself useful in missionary and other religious work.

The names of many active workers, not already here recorded, could be mentioned, who, through sunshine and cloud, have faithfully labored in this school for years, and the good thus planted has undoubtedly brought forth good fruit.

STRANGERS IN MEDFORD.

Compiled by Miss Helen T. Wild.

IN the early days of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, stringent laws were made to protect the towns against undesirable inhabitants.

Any one who rented a house or entertained a stranger in his house was required to notify the selectmen of his tenant's name, last residence, and financial condition.

If the stranger remained in a town three months without being "warned out," he became an inhabitant.

Unless the new-comer was the holder of taxable property he was usually warned out of town.

The law was strictly enforced in regard to children, apprentices, journeymen, and spinsters.

It was no disgrace to be warned out, unless there was danger of one becoming a town charge.

In such cases, if the person did not leave town within fourteen days after the date of warning, the constable was instructed to escort him to the town line, where he was met by the constable of the next town.

He was in this way passed from town to town until he reached his last place of residence.

When it became a State, Massachusetts was more strict; high and low, rich and poor, who were new residents, were warned out of town at the session of the court following their change of residence.

If all the men in the following list had been obliged to leave town as a result of being warned out, Medford would have lost some of her most useful citizens:

Names.	From. Date.	Warned out.	Remarks.
Adams, Benjamin	Plainfield, Oct., 1756	May 3, 1757	
Elizabeth (wife)			
Simeon, Ebenezer, Abraham, Solomon, Levi, Martha (Children)			
Adams, Betsey		Jan. 30, 1791	
Adams, John	Newtown, June 12, 1773		Tenants of Heirs of Wm. Whitmore
Hannah (wife)			
Hannah, John (Children)			
Adams, Joseph	"Rev. Mr. Cooks Parish"[1] April 3, 1769		Farmer employed by Col. Royall Single man
Adams, Nathan		Jan. 30, 1791	
Allen, George	Cambridge, April, 1757	Feb. 8, 1758	Tenant of Francis Whitmore
Hannah (wife)			
Allen, Samuel	Boston, June 18, 1755		Age 12. In family of Dan'l Cutter
Alexander, Sarah	Woburn, Mar. 9, 1757		In family of Thos. Brooks, Jr.
Anderson, William		Jan. 30, 1791	
Bailey, John	Rowley, July 7, 1759		In family of Sam'l Page
Barrell, Joseph, Jr.		Aug. 31, 1797	
Barto, Elizabeth	Lynn, June 28, 1755		Maid-servant

[1] In present town of Arlington.

Barton, William		Aug. 31, 1797	
Barthrick, Timothy	Cambridge, Apr. 4, 1753	Feb. 2, 1754	In family of Sam'l Brooks, Jr.
	" Jan. 1764	Dec. 3, 1764	
Baxter, Content	Lexington, Apr., 1767	May 16, 1767	"Girl."
Beemis, Charity	Waltham, Feb. 16, 1773		Maid-servant in family of Ebenezer Hall, Jr.
Benjamin, Abigail	Concord, May, 1766	Mar. 2, 1767	
Berry, Samuel	Lexington, April, 1767	May 16, 1767	
Mary (wife)			
Samuel, Jr. }			
Thomas } Children			
Mary, Jr. }			
Hannah }			
Bickford, Thomas	Newbury, August, 1762	Jan. 1, 1763	
Billings, Capt. Roger	Preston, N. London Co., Ct., April 12, 1760	Oct. 8, 1770	Tenant of Col. Royall.
wife and children			
Blacklock, Mary	Stoneham, Feb., 1766	Sept. 1, 1766	
Blacklock, Mercy	" July 5, 1764		In family of Sam'l Page.
Blanchard, Caleb		Jan. 30, 1791	Brick maker.
Blanchard, Ebenezer	Malden, Apr. 5, 1762	Jan. 1, 1763	In family of his brother Hezekiah Blanchard.
Blanchard, Samuel		Jan. 30, 1791	
Blodget, Elizabeth	Boston, Aug. 21, 1761	May 14, 1762	Maid-servant. Age 17. In service to Aaron Hall.
Bodge, Henry		Jan. 30, 1791	Cooper.
Bond, Joseph	Watertown, May 12, 1773		In house of Richard Creese.
Bond, Anna (wife)			
Joseph (child)			

Names.	From. Date.	Warned out.	Remarks.
Boyd, John	Charlestown, Mar. 9, 1765	Feb. 24, 1766	Age 4. In family of William Faulkner
Brackett, Margaret	Boston, Sept., 1759	Nov. 21, 1759 Jan. 9, 1760	Endorsed "Not to be found."
Bradbury, William		Jan. 30, 1791 Aug. 31, 1797	
Bradford, Mary	Boston, May, 1755	Aug. 5, 1755	
Children: Elizabeth, Sarah, Catherine, Joseph			
Brazier, Thomas, Jr. Esther (wife) John (child)	Charlestown, Nov. 9, 1757	Feb. 8, 1758	In house of Dorothy Fowle.
Bredin, Jacob wife and 2 children	Malden, Nov. 24, 1770		Tenant of Benj. Hall.
Brewer, Moses	Waltham, Feb. 16, 1773		Apprentice to Eben^{r}. Hall, Jr.
Brigden, Timothy		Aug. 31, 1797	
Bright, Jonathan	Charlestown, Sept. 9, 1760		In family of Sam'l Wakefield. 3 months old.
Brooks, Jonas Anna (wife)	Woburn (no date)		In house of Abigail Brooks.
Brothers, Sarah	Reading, Sept., 1763	Nov. 30, 1763	Dau. Mrs. Thos. Richardson.
Brown, Abigail	Boston, Oct. 2, 1759	Nov. 21, 1759	"Taken in by Phebe Tufts."
Bucknam, Ebenezer Mary (wife) Sarah (child)	Stoneham, abt. May 1, 1764	Dec. 3, 1764	

Buckman, Edward (Bucknam) Sarah (wife) & negro Venus	Stoneham, May 4, 1763		Tenant of Col. I. Royall.
Bucknam, Jacob Lydia (wife) & child	Braintree, April, 1756	Nov. 27, 1756	
Bucknam James (child)			Notice from Town of Boston, Aug. 27, 1803.
Bucknam, James Mary (wife) Mary Phœbe James Ebenezer William Joses (Children)	Malden, Dec., 1764	Mar. 1, 1765	
Bucknam, James		Jan. 30, 1791	
Bucknam, Joses		Jan. 30, 1791	Boatman. Son of James.
Bucknam, Leonard		Jan. 30, 1791	
Bucknam, Moses		Jan. 30, 1791	
Budge, James Elizabeth (wife) 3 children	Charlestown, May 3, 1756	Nov. 27, 1756	In house of Step[n]. Francis.
Budge, Ruth	Charlestown, Nov. 23, 1771		Age 16. In family of Sam'l Angier.
Burdit, Thomas Ruth (wife) Thomas Daniel (Children)	Malden, Apr. 12, 1759	Nov. 21, 1759	Tenants of Benj. Willis & Benj. Parker.

Names.	From. Date.	Warned out.	Remarks.
Burke, Redmon	Cambridge, May 7, 1764		Irishman. Laborer, employed by Col. Royall.
Burnam, Abraham	Sudbury, Aug. 15, 1764		Journeyman, employed by Samuel Tilton.
Burns, Mr., & family	Charlestown, Apr., 1751		Tenant of Simon Tufts.
Butterfield, John	Westford, April 18, 1770	Oct. 8, 1770	In tavern of Hugh Floyd.
Martha (wife)			
Kezia (Children)			
Abraham (Children)			
Ruth (Children)			
Buxton, Hannah	Reading, Oct. 19, 1773		Age 28. In family of Sam'l Angier.
Caldwell, Joseph		Aug. 31, 1797	
Caldwell, Robert		Aug. 31, 1797	
Calley, Eleanor	Woburn, May 3, 1754		Maid in family of Jos. Skinner
Cannade, Mathew	Boston, Dec. 21, 1754	(not warned)	In service to John Oakes.
Carding, Anna	Charlestown, Nov., 1766	May 16, 1767	
Carrel, Anna[1]	Lexington, Nov. 17, 1764	Aug. 26, 1765	In family of John Bishop
Carter, John		Nov. 6, 1753	
wife and two children "that are of his family"			
Caruth, Moses		Aug. 31, 1797	
Chadwick, Hezekiah	Charlestown, Apr. 17, 1754	Feb. 26, 1755	
Tryel (wife)			
2 children			
Chamberlain, Abel		Jan. 30, 1791	

[1] Anni Carel.

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Alden, Miss E. L.
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Barker, Abner H.
Barker, J. Herbert.
Barrett, Miss Mary C.
Batchelder, George L.
Baxter, Hon. Charles S.
Bedell, Daniel.
Begien, Henry M.
Bemis, Miss Fannie E.
†Bean, James.
Bissell, Hezekiah.
Blanchard, Miss Sarah J.
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Bridge, Miss Lucy P.
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Brooks, Frederick.
Brooks, Henry.
*Brooks, Shepherd.
*Brooks, Peter C.
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Brown, Mrs. Abby D.
Brown, Mrs. Harriet W.
Brown, Edward D.
Brown, George E.
Bruce, Mrs. F. P.
Bullard, B. Frank.
Burbank, Miss Ella L.
Burbank, Miss Ida E.
Buss, Charles B.
Buss, Herman L.

Chany, Miss A. Clara.
Chandler, Dr. N. F.
Chipman, Miss Bessie W.
Clark, Miss Mary S.
Clark, Miss Sarah L.
Clark, Calvin.
Cleaves, Dr. James E.
Cleaves, Mrs. Emmie N.
Coffin, Freeman C.
Coburn, Charles F.
Converse, M. M.
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Craig, William C.
Crockett, George W.
Croudis, George A.
Croudis, Mrs. Mabel H.
Cushing, Walter H.
Cushing, Walter F.
Cushing, Mrs. Carrie E.
Cushing, Samuel.
Cushing, Mrs. Samuel.

Dalrymple, Willard.
Dalrymple, Mrs. Julia W.
Dame, Lorin L.
Dame, Mrs. Isabel A.
Davenport, George E.
Davenport, Miss Viola T.
Davis, Miss E. A.
Dean, John Ward.
Dean, Mrs. Lydia E.
Delano, George S.
Delong, Rev. Henry C.
Delong, Mrs. Louise G.
Dennison, Edward B.
Dinsmore, Miss Jessie M.
Doland, Henry B.
Dunham, Charles B.
Durgin, Miss Annie E.

Eddy, Will C.
Eddy, Mrs. Rosalie S.
Evans, Allston H.

Fay, Wilton B.
Fenton, Benjamin F.
Fernald, Mrs. M. T.
Ford, Frederick W.
Foster, George O.
Foster, Mrs. Blanche.
Fuller, G. S. T.

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Gibson, Mrs. Ruth.
Gill, Mrs. Ellen M.
Gill, Miss Eliza M.
Gill, Miss Emma F.
Gill, Miss Adeline B.
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Gleason, Charles B.
Gleason, Charles M.
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Goodwin, Mrs. Emma W.
Goodwin, Dr. R. J. P.
Green, Dr. Charles M.
Guild, Gustavus F.
Gunn, J. Newton.

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Hall, Horace D.
Hall, Dr. Walter L.
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Hallowell, Richard P.
Hallowell, Mrs. Anna D.
Hallowell, N. Penrose.
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Hollis, Mrs. Mary B.
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Hooper, Mrs. John H.

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Jones, Miss Amy W.
Joyce, Allston P.

Kennedy, Miss Alice J.
Kidder, Fred H.
Kidder, Mrs. C. Edith.
Kingman, William F.
Kummer, Charles E.

Lane, George H.
Langell, Everard I.
Law, Colonel Asa.
Larkin Charles E.
Lawrence, Hon. Sam'l C.
Lawrence, Mrs. Carrie R.
*Lawrence, Rosewell B.
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Leary, Mrs. Fanny S.
Leighton, Miss Ella.
Leonard, Benjamin C.
Libby, John F.
Lincoln, Miss Agnes W.
Litchfield, Parker R.
Locke, Edwin F.
Loomis, Charles H.
Loomis, Mrs. Mary B.
Loomis, Rev. Chas. W.
Loring, Clifton.
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Lovering, Hon. Lewis H.

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†Maxwell, William R.
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Mayo, Samuel N.
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Miller, Joseph C., Jr.
Moore, Ernest B.
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Morss, Charles H.

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Norcross, Mrs. C. J. W.
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Nottage, Henry B.
Nye, Charles E.

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Parker, William I.
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Shultis, Mrs. Kate D.
Simpson, James B.
Start, Prof. Edwin A.
Start, Mrs. Philena C.
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Street, Miss Mary B.
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*Wright, Walter C.

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Charles Cummings.

MAJR: IONA: WADE'S REAL ESTATE[1] DIVIDED.

Compiled by Miss Helen T. Wild.

Middˢ: fsᵗ. ‖ The Subscribers Vizᵗ: William Johnson James Converſe John Greenland Stephen ffrances and Peter Tufts all ffreeholders in Said county being chosen and impowred by the Honᵇˡᵉ. James Ruſsel Esqʳ Iudge of Probates &ᵗᵃ: for sᵈ. county to make a diviſion of the houſing and Lands of Majʳ: Jonathan Wade Esqʳ. late of Medford in Said county dyed Seized of (who dyed Jnteſtate Novʳ: 24ᵗʰ. 1689 and the aboveſaid Committee being Sworn and impowred by the aforeſaid Judge to make a Diviſion of the ſaid deceased's houſing and lands unto and among his Widow & children according to Law We proceeded to a Diviſion and it is as followeth

Eliza: Wade[2] the sᵈ. deceeds Widow &ʳᵃ—

Imprˢ: ‖ The Widows $^1/_3{}^{d}$ of the Houſing and Lands amounts to £534 3 4 one third of the houſing £130ˡˡ: Vizᵗ: The Hall in the Brick houſe[3] the Hall Chamber two little rooms at north corner of Said houſe half the East Garret on the Eaſt ſide thereof one third of the Wash houſe the Stable and the Leantos belonging to it and the yards adjoining alſo one half of one Bay in the Barn at the Weſt End & northweſt Side next the floor with the privilege of the floor to threſh her English Corn and the East Cellar all at - - £130ˡˡ. - .. - .. alſo the Sᵈ. Widow hath set her out Eight Acres of Plow-

[1] Jonathan Wade was the son of Jonathan Wade, of Charlestown and Ipswich. He married, 1st, Deborah, daughter of Gov. Thomas Dudley. He owned all the land bordering on the river from Meeting House Brook to a creek which flows into the river at the foot of Linden street, Glenwood. He owned land on the north side of High street, where the brick house is still standing, and in the neighborhood of Forest street. His land extended back into Middlesex Fells.

[2] Elizabeth Wade was the second wife of Jonathan. The town records give no date in regard to her marriage or maiden name.

[3] The "Garrison House" on Brooks lane and Bradlee road, owned by Gen. S. C. Lawrence.

land next adjoining to the ſtable @ 5^{lb}. ℔ acre that makes £ - .. - .. 40^{li}. - .. - .. and Nine Acres of very good paſture land adjoining at four pounds p^{r}. acre £36^{li} - £36 the line runs as the fence goeth from the Garden to the Claypits[1] and so to Maj^{r}: Nath^{ll}. Wades fence One hundred Acres of paſture land more or less adjoyning to this and ſo butting upon Maj^{r}. Wades land the line runs from the West corner of the Orchard Northerly up to the Sawmill pond on the East ſide of s^{d}. pond and ſo home to Charleſtown line[2] comprehending within theſe bounds about twenty acres of wood - - land with a good Sprinkling of Wood in the aforementioned paſtureland and the land of the orchard but only one third of the fruit thereof. Alſo the said Widow hath her $^{1}/_{3}{}^{d}$ of the Marsh Twenty eight Acres more or leſs Set out to her below Wiggins's corner and y^{e}: place called Labour in Vain[3] where the river comes up to the upland and bounded by the River and from thence aline staked out to Maj^{r}. Nathaniel Wade's one marked tree at the West corner of the Island beſides the Stakes.—

Alſo the said Widow is to have one third of the Rent of the Sawmill[4] and forasmuch as she hath not yet set her out full one third of the Wood she is to have twenty one Cord of wood proportionably out of all the other ſhares Namely Six Cord of Dudley wades ſhare and three apiece out of all and every of the Rest Viz^{t}. three out of Deborah Dunſ-ters three out of Prudence Swann's three out of Katherine Wyers three out of Suſanna

[1] The clay pits were on the present Forest street, in the neighborhood of the Medford High School building.

[2] Charlestown lay south and north of Medford. The northern boundary of Medford was a line beginning at the foot of the hills, just north of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, near Malden line, extending north-westwardly to the north-easterly corner of Mr. Geo. H. Russell's farm, on the line between Medford and Winchester. This is the boundary referred to as Charlestown line in this document.

[3] Labor in Vain. See Mr. J. H. Hooper's article in Register, Vol. 3, No. 2.

[4] The site of the old mill can be seen on land of G. M. Stevens, west of Governor's avenue.

Wades and three Cords out of Elizabeth wades The ſaid

Widow

Widow to cut it and cart it away when she pleaſeth. All theſe Particulars make her full Thirds of the Said houſing and Lands quantity for Quality: with one Third of the Wharffe at the bridge with a way through the middle Cellar to her East Cellar—

Secondly Dudley Wade[1] the only Surviving Son of the said deceaſed his double portion of the Said houſing and lands: Viz[t]: one large Room in the Brick houſe called the Kitchin but may be improved for other Service: One large Cloſset or Buttery called a fflasket the Chamber over the Kitchin with the two Cloſsets therein and a privilege at the Stairs head, the whole West Garret with the Cockloft[2] over it one third of the waſh houſe one half of the great Barn namely the East End with half the Leentos and half the floor and one third of the Wharffe — Twelve acres of good plowland next adjoyning to the Widows Thirds the line runs through the Garden Strait down to the river — and ſixteen Acres of Marsh which goes from the West end of the barn viz[t]: all the Marſh in thoſe two points and down below no-man's friend[3] taking in two Acres of the next point staked out from the upland to a Creek and ſo to the River but line doth not go over that Creek. Alſo the Said Dudley is to have that little Paſture called the Bury - - ing place allowing only one quarter of an Acre of the s[d]. burying place with a Gang way to it to be a burying place for the whole family.

Alſo the ſaid Dudley Wade is to have One half of the Barn yard adjoyning to his half of the Barn and one third of the fruit of the orchard And one half of the Waſte land about the house, alſo he is to have the

[1] Dudley Wade was the son of Jonathan and Deborah (Dudley) Wade. Born Oct. 18, 1683.

[2] This expression seems to imply that the house then had a gambrel roof.

[3] A landing at the foot of Cross street, sometimes called Wade's landing, near F. E. Foster & Co.'s mill.

whole of the West Cellar with a way through the middle Cellar to it. alſo the Said Dudley hath about forty acres of woodland and paſture land altogether abutting upon Charles-town line adjoyning to the widows Thirds comprehending the ſaw mill Damm and the pond into his Bounds allowing him the whole Sawmill with the Utensils and privileges thereof forever. (Excepting only the Widow's Thirds thereof for her life) and the Reaſons why We allow him the whole Saw mill, not only be-cauſe we have contrived it within his bounds but because the Eſtate is in his Debt who eat but a ſingle Share of the Proviſions when there was a double ſhare due to him of all both Chattels as well as lands All make 305ll. 4. 8d - - - - - - - - - - - £305 .. 4 .. 8

Thirdly Deborah Dunſter hath one half of the houſe and land at Charleſtown at 20ll: and She hath the greateſt part of her Lands in the third Range[1] namely Thirty three Acres more or leſs at £74ll: that comes down to Prouts marſh[2] Southerly butting upon Dudley's woodland northerly and Eaſterly it butts upon Dudley, Prudence and Elizabeth Wades paſtureland. Eight Acres of Marſh at Wiggins corner bounded by Prudence Swan's

Marsh

Marsh weſt and ſouth and by the river and upland elsewhere @ £38ll.. and awoodlott adjoyning to Dudley Wades Nine Acres and ahalf more or leſs all which make up her One hundred fifty two pounds 12ſ 4d. - £152 .. 12 .. 4

ffourthly Prudence Swann[3] hath part of the Brick houſe Viz[t]: that Room called the parlour at 35ll. and half the Middle Cellar 1/6th: of the waſh houſe 1/4th: of the East Garret on the North ſide thereof and the

[1] The Charlestown wood lots in the present bounds of Medford were divided into five ranges, which are very clearly shown on Walling's map of Medford dated 1855. This land is nearly all included now in the Middlesex Fells reservation.

[2] Swamp.

[3] Prudence Wade married Thomas Swan, of Roxbury, Dec. 27, 1692.

Weſt Bay of the Great Barn and the Leento the Same breadth with a privilege in the floor to threſh on and ¼ of the Barn yards and one quarter of the garden namely the Middle part next Dudley's and ſo to front the highway with a privilege in the Waſte land about the houſe to lay wood on or the like and one ſixth part of the fruit of the orchard Alſo eight acres of Marſh next adjoyning to Deborah Dunsters' upstream butting upon Elisabeth Wades Norweſt the River ſouth and South West the upland northerly ‖ also Nine acres and half more or leſs of woodland next to Deborah Dunſters West of that and butting upon Charleſtown line Northerly Elizabeth Wades Weſterly and ſuſanna's paſture land ſoutherly — also the Said Prudence hath Twelve Acres of paſtureland at the ſouth end of the ſecond range butting upon the River[1] South and partly upon Prouts Marsh, the Widow's thirds East from the West corner of the orchard comprehending into this twelve Acres One appletree at the Weſt corner and ſo it butts upon M[rs]. Dunſter's weſterly [ ] Wade north — alſo ſeven Acres of Plowland on the Eaſt ſide of the o [ ] corn field adjoyning to Elizabeth Wade's plowland hereinafter mentioned and bounded by the fence elſewhere All theſe together at £152 .. 12 .. 4 allowing her the ſaid Prudence one half that wood lott at Spot pond into her part ———

ffifthly Katherine Wyer[2] hath that houſe by marble's brook[3] at £40[ll] and about Eighteen Acres of land adjoyning allowing two acres for Highways ‖ and Nine acres and half of woodland more or leſs the Woodland lyeth at the North corner of the farm bounded by Charleſtown [ ] north Thomas Willis West, Suſanna Wade Eaſt and so with that Eighteen Acres by the houſe is bounded by Tho[s]. Willis' West Stephen ffrances ſouth Deborah Dunſter Eaſt ſuſanna Wade'

[1] Brook.

[2] Katherine Wade married Eleazar Wyer. There is no record of marriage, but the births of children are recorded.

[3] Meeting House brook.

north ‖ alſo Eight acres of m [ ] more or leſs in the lower Marſh among the Jslands[1] bounded East by her Uncle Nathaniel Wade weſt by ſuſanna Wade ſouth by the River n [ ] by Peter Tufts's upland and the quantity of this Lott is more than some of the Reſt becauſe the quality of it is not ſo good; and the woodlands [ ] are in the bounds thereof belong to her the ſd Katherine make recompence for more than ordinary ponds that are therein. alſo ſhe hath tenpounds in the houſe and land at Charleſtown namely one quarter thereof all which together makes One hund[d]. fifty two pounds 12ſ 4[d] - - - - - - - - - - - - £152 .. 12 .. 4

Sixthly Suſanna Wade[2] hath set out to her eight Acres of Marsh more or leſs that lyeth between the Widows Thirds and her ſiſter Katherine's part

of

of Marsh butting upon the river ſouth and upon Peter Tufts's upland North the meaſure is larger than ſome of the reſt becauſe the quality is not ſo Good; — alſo there is one Jsland in the bounds thereof which the ſaid Suſanna is to have to make good ſome loſs more than Ordinary in her part by Ponds — alſo ſhe is to have one quarter of the houſe and land at Charleſtown at ten pounds; and ſhe hath ſet out to her Nine Acres more or leſs of woodland bounded by Katherine Wyer Weſt Eliz[a]. Wade Eaſt Charleſtown line North and her own paſ-ture land South and ſhe hath of paſture land and plowland together Thirty two Acres more or leſs which lyeth between the woodlotts and Katherine Wyer's lott bounded by Tho[s]. Willis Weſt and Deborah Dunſter Eaſt all theſe parcels together make her portion ——— - £152 .. 12 .. 4

Seventhly and Laſtly Elizabeth Wade hath ſet out to her part of the Brick house namely the parlour Chamber at Twenty five pounds one half of the mid- -dle Cellar

[1] Upland in midst of marsh below Foster's court.
[2] Susanna Wade married Stephen Willis, Dec. 18, 1698. Died March 12, 1742.

¼ of the Eaſt Garret ½ of a Bay in the great Barn at the Weſt end next the floor adjoyning to her mother's half Bay beforementioned with a privilege in the floor to threſh English corn on and the Leento the ſame breadth one quarter of the barn yard and one ſixth part of the waſh houſe and one quarter of the garden at the upper End and ſo to front the highway with privilege in the waſte land about the houſe to lay wood on or the like — alſo Eight Acres of Marſh more or leſs next to Dudley Wades butting upon Prudence Swann Eaſterly upon the River ſouth and weſt partly upon Dudley weſt the upland north alſo Nine Acres and a half more or leſs of woodland lying between Prudence and ſuſanna's parts butting upon Charleſtown line north and ſuſannah's paſture land South‖ alſo Eight acres of plow land adjoyning to Dudley's Plowland in the field bounded by Dudley Wade's plowland weſt, Prudence ſwann East, Nath[ll]. Wade north and by the highway ſouth — Alſo Twenty nine acres of mean paſ- -ture land upon the hills in the ſecond Range between Dudley wade on the North and Prudence Swann on the ſouth widows Thirds on the Eaſt and Deborah Duster on the Weſt and a ſixth part of the fruit of the or-chard and one half of the wood lott at Spott pond namely the West End thereof all theſe particulars put together make her portion £152 .. 12 .. 4 There is alſo a Platt of the farm both upland and marſh drawn by William Johnson Surveyor and herewith preſented to the adminiſtrat[r] that the Said children may keep for their more direct Jnformation as to their particular parts and all the fences of all ſorts that now are' ſhall remain in the Right of them that own the Land: and the looſe fencing [ ] upon the farm shall be improved to mend the outſide ſences belonging to the ſaid farm proportionately — There is alſo one third of the wharffe by the Bridge undispoſed of the which we do apprehend proper to lye to the reſt of the Children that have no part therein already to improve amongſt them

af

as they have Occaſion orderly That is the first that comes first ſerved — There will alſo be Occaſion for the Well for every one that lives in the brick houſe the which we do accordingly so order — there will alſo be Occaſion for drift ways through Several of the aforementioned parts both in the marſh and in the upland the which thoſe of the ſaid children that have neceſſity thereof are to have that liberty without making any further allowance for the Same the Committee having conſidered it and made allowance for it already —

And alſo We have laid the Widow's thirds next to the ſons very convenient for him that when she leaves it he may have an opportunity to redeem it —

Thus with much difficulty we have contrived and divided if his Hon^{r}: the S^{d}. Judge pleaſe to confirm it — Mem^{o}: It's agreed before ſigning that the Widows Mrs Prudence ſwan and Eliz^{a} Wade ſhall have Liberty of ayard at the West End of the Barn where the old pound ſtood for Yard & Cart ways to the said barn beſides the Yards before mentioned &^{ra}—

WILLIAM IOHNSON
JAMES CONVERSE
IOHN GREENLAND
PETER TUFTS
STEPHEN FFRANCIS

Allowed of the afores^{d} Diviſion ℔ Ia^{s}. Ruſsel IP.
Entred & Examined ℔ Sam^{ll}. Phipps Reg^{r}.
E Lib^{o}. 9no: Pa. 245, 6, 7, 8
Examined ℔ ffra: ffoxcroft Jun Reg^{r}:

Officers of Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter, D. A. R., for Year Ending April, 1902.

Regent. — MISS HELEN T. WILD; *Vice Regent.* — MISS ELIZA M. GILL; *Secretary.* — MISS IDA L. HARTSHORN; *Treasurer.* — MISS JESSIE M. DINSMORE; *Chaplain.* — MRS. SARAH E. FULLER; *Registrar.* — MRS. EMMA W. GOODWIN; *Historian.* — MRS. ELIZABETH A. CHANEY.

Board of Managers. — MRS. C. EDITH KIDDER, MRS. H. ELIZABETH AYERS, MISS EMMA F. GILL.

AN INCIDENT AT THE FORD.

IN 1644 Gov. John Winthrop, in his journal, describes the following incident as taking place at a ford in Mistick river. From a careful study of the story it is evident that the ford referred to was Mistick ford, and that the parties lived near the farmhouse of Governor Cradock (called Meadford on ancient maps), which was located, as before stated, near the present square: "One Dalkin and wife, dwelling near Meadford, coming from Cambridge where they had spent their sabbath, and being to pass over the River at a Ford, the tide not being fallen enough, the husband adventured over, and finding it too deep, persuaded his wife to stay awhile, but it raining very sore, she would needs adventure over, and was carried away with the stream past her depth, her husband not daring to go help her, cried out, and thereupon his dog, being at his house near by, came forth, and seeing something in the water, swam to her, and she caught hold on the dog's tail, so he drew her to the shore and saved her life."

J. H. H.

NOTES.

MISS HELEN T. WILD, the newly elected Regent of Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter, D. A. R., is an active member of the Medford Historical Society, having served in various official positions and on important committees. She has done excellent work in connection with the Register, and articles from her pen have been most interesting and valuable.

She had been the efficient secretary of her Chapter since its formation, and by experience and interest in the work is well equipped for the responsibilities of the Regent's office.

In the list of patriots lending their money to the government between 1777 and 1779 for the prosecution of the war, who later exchanged the bills of credit for the bonds of the then unstable national government, is found the name of only one Medford man, Richard Hall. Besides standing ready to aid his struggling country, he served his town in the various capacities of selectman, treasurer, clerk, and moderator.

May 12, 1760, the town voted to purchase two fire-hooks. These were the first pieces of fire apparatus that the town owned so far as we have any record.

The first fire-engine was purchased with money raised both by taxation and by subscription. In 1763 the town raised by tax £26 13s. 4d. for this purpose. The first fire-engine is said to have been named the "Grasshopper."

March 11, 1765, the town appointed nine firewards and twelve engine-men. Isaac Royal, Esq., was one of the firewards.

The frontispiece in this number is reproduced through the courtesy of Mr. W. C. Eddy.

There is an increased demand for the past numbers of the Register, and a number of sets have been sold recently. The supply is limited, and when exhausted the yearly volumes will have a largely increased value.

HISTORICAL ITEMS.

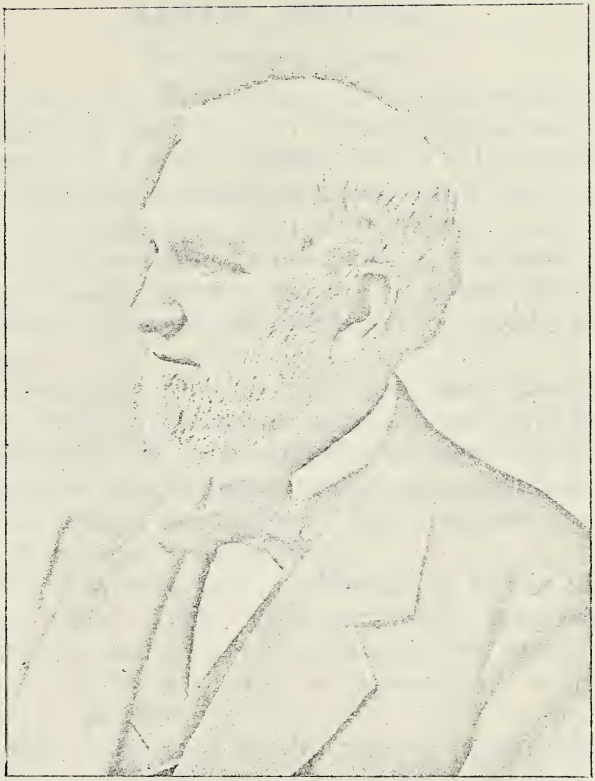
Feb. 7, 1632: On this day Governor Winthrop, Mr. Nowell, and others, crossed our ford in Medford, and travelled on an exploring expedition towards the north-east, and came "to a very great pond, having in the midst an island of about one acre, and very thick with trees of pine and beech; and the pond had divers small rocks standing up here and there in it, which they therefore called Spot Pond. They went all about it on the ice."

1647: Medford was under the following law: "Ordered that no lover shall seek the hand of his chosen one till he has asked permission of her parents. Penalty for the first offence £5; for the second £10; and for the third imprisonment." According to this, an element of danger must have been introduced into the courting of those days.

1670: Some Indian children were brought up in our English families, and afterwards became idle and intemperate. A gentleman asked the Indian father why this was so. He answered: "Tucks will be tucks, for all old hen be hatch 'em."

1810: Medford had a large choir of volunteer singers, under the faithful Ephraim Bailey. One Sunday the pitch pipe set the pitch so high that the whole choir broke down. General Brooks could not endure it any longer, and he rose in his pew, beckoned to Bailey, and said, "Hadn't you better take another pitch?" Bailey replied, "No, sir, I guess we can get through it."

Rev. Mr. Osgood boarded many years in the family of Deacon Richard Hall, and a very close intimacy blessed both parties afterwards. One Sunday Mrs. Hall was taken ill in church, and her husband went out with her. After some time the deacon returned. As soon as he had shut the door, Mr. Osgood stopped in his preaching and said, "Mr. Hall, how is aunt now?" "She is better," was the reply.



THE LATE HON. ELEAZAR BOYNTON.

[Picture reproduced through the courtesy of George W. Stetson.]

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. IV. JULY, 1901. No. 3.

ELEAZAR BOYNTON.

By Charles H. Loomis.

THE life of the Hon. Eleazar Boynton, which closed in Medford, June 5, 1901, was a marked and pleasing example of a well-rounded career : In character a manly Christian ; in business a successful merchant ; in political life honored by his fellow citizens ; in religious and church interests an earnest worker ; in benevolence a consistent and generous giver ; in social life a welcome friend ; and in the family circle highly favored and happy.

The termination of a life built upon such foundations, and with such environment, must of necessity leave a place difficult to fill in the circles affected by it. The contemplation of a long, honorable, successful, and lovable life is always interesting. Its memories are satisfactory, its lessons are inspiring.

Mr. Boynton was born in Rockport, Essex County, Sept. 29, 1824. His early education was obtained in the public and private schools of his native town, supplemented by a course of instruction at Phillips Academy, Andover.

He came to Boston at the age of twenty-one, and entered the wholesale grocery and ship chandlery establishment of Boynton & Miller, becoming a partner in the firm in 1849. In 1855 the firm-name was changed to that of N. Boynton & Co. In 1868 Hon. Nehemiah Boynton died, and Mr. Boynton became the senior member of the firm, continuing as such till January 1 this year, when he retired from business. The firm constantly increased its business, mainly through the sterling business integrity of Mr. Boynton. It added to its line

of goods, and became one of the largest manufacturers and dealers in cotton duck in the country.

Mr. Boynton was for years a vice-president and trustee of the Medford Savings Bank, holding that position at the time of his decease. For years he was a director of the Blackstone National Bank, Boston, being president of the bank at the time of its going out of business. Among the other prominent positions held by Mr. Boynton may be mentioned : President of the United States Cotton Duck Manufacturers' Association, president of the United States Duck Cotton Dealers' Association, and president of the Russell Mills, Plymouth.

Mr. Boynton was a member of the school board of Boston for some years while he lived in that city, and when he moved to Medford he was honored in a like manner. In 1861 he was a member of the "war board of selectmen," and chairman of the board in 1862, and to him is largely due the credit Medford has enjoyed as one of the most loyal communities at that critical time in the history of the nation — that of contributing the first quota of men to join the Union army, while the last company mustered out of active service was largely composed of Medford's brave sons.

In 1865 he represented Medford in the House of Representatives, and in 1885 and 1886 represented the First Middlesex District in the Senate.

Mr. Boynton was married in Boston, Oct. 9, 1852, to Mary Chadbourne. Their union was blessed with four children : Mary, wife of L. A. Dodge, Edward P. Boynton, Rev. Nehemiah Boynton (pastor at Detroit, Mich.), and Elizabeth L. Boynton. The wife and children all survive him.

As has been stated, his home life was a happy and devoted one. He took a parent's justifiable pride in the development and popularity of his son Nehemiah's ministerial career. The writer well recalls the pleasure which beamed in every feature of the father's kindly

face as he would ask, "Did you hear the boy preach to-day?" Mr. Boynton was identified with all movements of local interest. He was a life member of the Town Improvement Society, and when the financial interests of that organization were merged into the Medford Historical Society he became a life member of the latter society, and at its last public meeting advocated its claims and urged the importance of a large membership.

Mr. Boynton was a man of dignified and courtly manners, always gracious and approachable, and endowed with the happy faculty of "saying the right thing in the right place." The sentiment expressed by one of his sons will find a response in many hearts: "Our father lived a noble life. We can best honor his memory by trying ourselves to live true and noble lives."

REMINISCENCES OF AN EARLIER MEDFORD.

A Familiar Talk before the Medford Historical Society.

James A. Hervey.

IT is with much hesitation, not to say reluctance, that I consented to appear before you to-night. Most of the topics of primary interest connected with the history and evolution of Medford have been fully and ably treated by other members of the Association in the papers they have read before it, and I have been much at loss for a subject. But the chairman of your committee urged that a gap was to be filled, and has wedged me into it. To meet his wishes in a very informal manner I bring together some of my earliest recollections of Medford and its people, going back to the year 1836, when my parents took up their residence in this town. Some of these reminiscences have already appeared in print, but they are essential to my purpose, and will probably be new to most of you.

I was about eight years old when Medford became my home, and I have a very distinct recollection of the impression the town made upon me on my first introduction to it. It had then a population of little more than two thousand two hundred, pretty widely scattered. You must remember that since then we have lost some territory, taken from us to help form the towns of Somerville and Winchester. The older part of the town showed all the marks of its antiquity, and its general aspect was one of old-time respectability. I do not suppose, however, there were a dozen houses in Medford at that time that cost more than six thousand dollars. They were plain but substantial structures that accorded well with the homely ways and thrifty habits of the earlier New England generations. There was plenty of timber in the frames of these buildings, not held together with ten-penny nails, but well mortised and well braced, calculated to set at defiance a September gale or a winter blizzard. These houses were all hand-made. The mechanics of those days could frame their own sashes and doors, and could turn out, often with self-made tools, the most elaborate mouldings. We have one of them in our own body in the person of our respected fellow-citizen, Mr. Cleophas Johnson — long may he live ! but his works will live after him.

To resume my description of Medford: the public square and high street as far as Meeting House brook, looked very much as they do now, making allowance for some changes in buildings — not very many. Between Meeting House brook and the Lowell railroad there were very few houses — not more than half a dozen, as I remember. West Medford had then practically no existence as a settlement. There was but a house or two on Purchase street (now North Winthrop street) as far as the present Winchester line ; and the same might be said of Forest street up to the Stoneham line, — as well as of Salem street below Fulton street to the Malden line. On Main street, from the present Stearns'

avenue to the Somerville line, there were only two or three houses.

To sum the matter up, the bulk of the population of the town lived within half a mile of the square, including Ship and Park streets, Union street, — then called Back street, — and a portion of South street as far as the Winthrop-street bridge. There were but three houses on the Medford turnpike, now called Mystic avenue.

I think I have given you a pretty accurate account of the distribution of the population of Medford in 1836. With boyish enterprise I soon made myself acquainted with the topography of the town. Let me tell you of a little incident which happened to me the first time I crossed over to the south side of Cradock bridge — then a wooden drawbridge. I had just got over when a great hulking boy stepped up to me, looked me in the face, lifted his fist and straightway knocked me down — all this without saying a word. He was probably influenced by the feeling illustrated in a story of "Punch." Two cads are standing on the street. One says to the other, "Bill, who is that fellow over there?" "Don't know, — a stranger, I guess." "Heave half a brick at him, Bill!"

The fighting spirit was rife among Medford boys in that day — fostered, I think, by the immemorial feud which had existed between the boys of Medford and Charlestown, and which had found its field of action on the canal in skating time every winter. They fought some pretty stiff battles at those times, not without bloodshed. Our town boys used, in Homeric fashion, to taunt their opponents with this doggerel :

> "White cockade and peacock feather,
> Medford boys will fight forever;
> Charlestown pigs stay in their sties,
> Afraid of getting bunged-up eyes!"

Just the same, the Charlestown "pigs" did not acquit themselves ingloriously. It is dangerous to call your adversaries *pigs*, as the Spanish have found out.

Before passing on, let me say that the boy who knocked me down so summarily, a few months later sat next to me in school. We became very good friends and he used to bring me nice apples from his father's orchard — the "high-top sweetings" of those days, which, like many other good things, have passed away. I asked him one day why he had struck me. "Oh," said he, reassuringly, "only for fun." It was all very well, but I couldn't help thinking the "fun" was very unevenly divided. The poor fellow a few years later went to sea with Captain Redmond of this town, and while the ship was lying at New Orleans fell from the yard-arm and was killed. His life was short, and perhaps I ought not to be sorry to remember that during its brief term it fell to my lot to contribute something to his amusement. But he struck very hard.

Of the old inhabitants of Medford I might say a good deal if time permitted. I have seen among them people of pre-Revolutionary birth, and of course they had the ways and manners of the olden time. Some of them were men of marked character and wide experience, and there were traits of eccentricity in others, the display of which was always interesting. We boys used to like to sit in a corner of the old reading-room in the square and listen to their talk. There was old Mr. Andrew Blanchard, the most irascible of men, who could never endure any allusion to the new church which the First Parish had built, because he had lost his pew in the old one. He never set his foot in the new edifice. His intimates liked to goad him by introducing the objectionable topic, for these old gentlemen were much addicted to guying each other. On such provocation Mr. Blanchard would leap from his chair and emphasize words of passionate protest with thumps of his cane upon the floor. Then there was old William Bradbury, who would never stay in church after twelve o'clock. As soon as the clock sounded its first note he jumped from his seat, seized his hat, opened the pew

door, slammed it, and wrathfully stumped his way out of the church.

All this reminds me of the fact that very many of the families of the town, formerly quite prominent in its business and social life, are no longer represented here. The Blanchards in the earlier day were very numerous. There were several families of them, all of them probably nearly or remotely connected. In looking over the register of baptisms kept by Mr. Thomas Seccomb, parish clerk, and covering the years from 1737 to 1776, I was surprised to see how many of the recipients of the sacred ordinance bore the name of Blanchard ; they made up a good percentage of the whole number. I know of but one or two of the stock now living here. By the by, the register I have referred to records the fact that one infant was baptized who was born on the morning of the Sunday on which the rite was administered ! Thus they snatched a brand from the burning !

The Bishops were also a prominent family in Medford for more than a century. Mr. Nathaniel Bishop died in 1850, and after his death his children took up their residence in other parts of the country. I also have a kindly remembrance of the fine family of the Clisbys, with which I was very intimate in my boyhood. They are all dispersed. Aaron Warner Clisby, my especial friend and playmate, is, or was a few years ago, a clergyman in Alabama.

The name of Swan was also well known and honored sixty years ago. No one bears that name here now. Mr. Samuel Swan had a family of seven children, and of them I have heard this story : Some one asked which of two of his sons, Lincoln or Timothy, was the elder. "Let's see," was the answer ; "there are Sam, Dan, Jo, Han, Lin, Tim, and Ca — Oh, Lin is the elder !" The names, properly extended, were Samuel, Daniel, Joseph, Hannah, Lincoln, Timothy, and Caleb. Daniel Swan was the beloved physician of this town, and most

pleasantly remembered by our citizens who have passed middle age.

One of the most interesting memorials of the past standing in Medford was the Tufts house in the public square, on the western corner of Forest street. It was torn down in 1867. It was a large unpainted wooden building, three stories high in the front, and sloping down to one low story in the rear. Such was the picturesque style of building our fathers affected a century and a half ago. During the later years of its existence the house was in a dilapidated, not to say ruinous, condition, its bulging walls and sunken floors threatening immediate collapse. I think it was only upheld by its immense chimney — the largest I ever saw — which stood in the centre of the house. Portions of the building were utilized to the last. In the front apartment, on the east side, I can remember that a small bookstore was kept by a Mr. Randall, who had also the charge of the social library which found a place in the room. The same room was afterwards occupied as a barber's shop, and in a room behind it Mr. Gillard kept his fish market. The front room on the western corner was for many years used for the reading-room to which I have already referred, and concerning which I shall have something more to say. A very faithful likeness of the Tufts building will be found in Usher's edition of "Brooks' History."

And the Tufts family played an important part in the earlier and later history of the town. The founder of the family, Mr. Peter Tufts, was born in England in 1617, and came to New England somewhere about 1638 and was one of the earliest settlers of Malden, where he was a large land-owner. He also bought of Cradock's heirs 350 acres of land in what is now one of the most thickly settled parts of Medford. His son, Capt. Peter Tufts, resided in Medford and was the father of Dr. Simon Tufts, the first physician of the town. It seems likely that he was the builder of the house in the square

which Brooks, I know not by what authority, says was built in 1725. Dr. Simon Tufts was succeeded by his son, Dr. Simon Tufts, Jr., a man of high character and excellent professional standing. In my earliest recollection of the Tufts house it was occupied by Mr. Turell Tufts, son of Dr. Simon Tufts, Jr., who died in 1842.

I well remember Mr. Turell Tufts, a stout gentleman of florid countenance and somewhat imperious ways. He had at one time been consul at Surinam, and had accumulated a handsome fortune for those days. In later years he became one of the town's magnates, filling at different periods the offices of town treasurer, chairman of the board of selectmen, representative, etc., but at the time of which I write he had retired from affairs and was enjoying with dignity a gentlemanly leisure. I think he never married, but he kept house in the old mansion and diffused a generous hospitality. I take it he was fond of books, for he left $500 to the Social Library, the income of which still inures to the benefit of our Public Library. I may be fanciful, but as I call up the picture of him in my memory he reminds me of one of the East Indian nabobs who figure so largely in old English novels and comedies — choleric and gouty old gentlemen, much given to port, curry, and mullagatawny, and always sure to portion off their nephews and nieces in the handsomest manner in the closing scenes. Mr. Tufts seems to have held to heroic practices in matters dietetic ; he is reported to have said that the reason why mince-pies hurt people was because they did not "make them rich enough."

The sidewalk in front of Mr. Turell Tufts' house used to be our favorite resort for a game of marbles. We found a pleasant shade under the two mighty buttonwoods, and the ground was smooth and hard. Here on a pleasant day might have been seen Parson Stetson's sons, the Halls, Lawrences, Clisbys, Sam Gregg, Charley Ballou, John Burrage, and others who shall be nameless. Charles Ballou was a dead shot at marbles, and when

he aimed at your "alley," six feet off, it was a good plan to say good-by to it. When the play became noisy, Mr. Tufts would sally out from his front door, wildly flourish his cane, and order us off. So David Copperfield's Aunt Betsey Trotwood used to rush out to drive the intrusive donkey from her green. We obeyed, but the retreat was only temporary; we went back as soon as the old gentleman resumed his nap, but were very careful not to disturb him again. I think half his fierceness was assumed.

It was after the death of Mr. Tufts that the reading-room was established in his house. It was a very important institution in town at that date, for few people subscribed to a daily paper, and news-stands were unknown. The room was a sort of club-room, where people met to learn the latest intelligence, but more particularly to chat over local matters. When some event of public importance had happened the boys used to drop in to look at the papers, and their presence was always tolerated. Only Boston papers were taken— the "Advertiser," "Post," "Atlas," the "Evening Journal" (the "Journal" was then published as an evening paper), and the "Transcript."

Here one got a glance at the older Medford, which had even then almost passed away. As I have already stated, many of those who made the reading-room their resort were men of advanced age, and might be considered as links connecting the centuries. Beside those I have already mentioned were Ebenezer Hall, Joseph Manning, 1st., Dr. Daniel Swan, Dudley Hall, and Joseph Swan. Their conversation, reverting to incidents which occurred in their youth, opened vistas into a past which now seems very remote to us. Other patrons of the reading-room, belonging to a later generation, were Samuel Lapham, Joseph Manning, 2d., Daniel Lawrence, George L. Stearns, John Sparrell, Jonas Coburn, George Hervey, Dudley C. Hall, Peter C. Hall, George W. Porter, John Clough, Albert H.

Butters, and Col. Francis R. Bigelow, and there were doubtless others whose names escape me. Let it be remembered that I am speaking of the reading-room in the early period of its history. I was not so well acquainted with it afterwards. When the Tufts House was taken down the quarters of the club were removed to a building on the east side of Pasture Hill Lane (recently taken down), and there they remained until death had so thinned the ranks of its members that it could no longer be maintained. I have spoken at this length of the old reading-room, because it made quite a feature in the social life of the town, and exercised a considerable local influence.

The nature of my task compels me to be discursive. Let me say a few things about the Medford House, which has occupied its present site for nearly a century. It was built by Andrew Blanchard in 1804, although I have been told that the piazza which runs along three sides of the main building is of a later date. The Medford House, with its ample yard, large stable, and convenient outbuildings, — always within my remembrance neatly kept, — meets one's idea of the proper country inn of the earlier day, and its reputation for hospitable entertainment has been maintained through a long course of years. Within the walls of the ancient dining-room many a good dinner has been served to legislative committees, county officers, and local boards, and matters of weighty interest and concern have been discussed, let us hope to better issues, under the influence of mine host's good cheer. Formerly the upper story of the rear of the building was occupied by a hall, which served as the village ball-room, and was sometimes used for concerts and for the exhibitions of professors of legerdemain and itinerant showmen. I regretfully miss the fine buttonwood which used to stand in the centre of the yard, under the shade of which stood the pump and watering-trough ; and, alas, never again shall we see

the grand old stage-coach, with its four smoking horses, roll up to the steps of the Medford House!

The proprietorship of the Medford House has passed through many hands, but of no one of the landlords will people who are old enough retain a more vivid recollection than of Augustus Baker. He was an Italian by birth, and a barber by profession. I could never understand where he got his English name, but he had probably adopted it. Entirely without education, he was gifted with native shrewdness, and at one time became possessed of considerable means. He had the peculiar physiognomy of natives of the Mediterranean shores — brown-eyed, crisp-haired, olive-tinted. He had a peculiar way of cutting off the last syllables of words, and used to say he kept a hotel for "prof" (profit) and not for "accommodaish" (accommodation). When twitted of watering his liquor, he answered, "Why, yes, the more water, the more consh" (conscience). He possessed a grim kind of humor, as this story told of him will show: He owned a piece of land in the rear of the hotel premises, and one of his apple trees overhung the fence of a neighboring proprietor who, being a very "close" man, was jealous of the encroachment, and availing himself of what he believed to be his legal rights, cut off the limbs of the tree close to the fence. Baker said nothing, but one day going into his orchard he saw that his neighbor, working in his own field, had thrown his coat upon the fence. The vengeful Italian, creeping up stealthily, took out his knife and cut off that portion of the garment which hung over his own land. He was not addicted to poetry; if he had been, he might have applied to himself the words of Byron:

> "Time at last makes all things even,
> And if we do but wait the hour,
> There never yet was human power
> Which could evade, if unforgiven,
> The patient search and vigil long
> Of him who treasures up a wrong."

It was lynch law, but it came pretty near to being justice, at least to his uninstructed mind.

Let me say a few words about the square and its buildings as they stood about 1840.

As I have said before, I am inclined to think that the general aspect of no other precinct of the city has changed less during the last sixty years than that of the Public Square and its immediate environment. To be sure, some of the old buildings have disappeared and new ones have been put up in their places. The old Cotton bakery and the Tufts house, on either corner of Forest street, have given place to new structures, and the Opera house and Savings Bank, in their architectural bravery, put the plainer buildings in their neighborhood somewhat out of countenance. But in spite of these changes the square has been able to maintain its identity, and I am sure that one familiar with its aspect sixty years ago, though a stranger to it in the interval, would be easily able to recognize it now. Its essential features are unaltered and it has never lost its local flavor.

There is one thing, however, which he would miss if he were standing in the square on a winter's morning — and that would be the long line of ox-teams, wagons or sleds, loaded with cord-wood, stretching from what is now Governor's avenue to Pasture Hill Lane. He would miss Capt. John Sparrell with his measuring rod, vigilant to see that purchasers lost nothing of their proper dues. And he would miss the noble oxen, waving their heads and ruminating their liberal allowance of corn fodder which was spread before them, their warm, fragrant breath floating away on the frosty air, the scene affording a motif to inspire the best efforts of a Paul Potter or a Troyon. The picturesque age has passed and the mechanical has succeeded; the beautiful sky is cobwebbed with trolley wires, and day and night are made hideous with the infernal whiz of the electric car.

Excuse me for this burst of pessimism. I sometimes find the electric car mighty convenient.

To go on with the square and its neighborhood. The present stone bridge is certainly a great improvement on the wooden structure with its teetering draw, which preceded it. It used to be said (our genial fellow-citizen Mr. Henry Moore is my authority) that our military company, the Brooks Phalanx, after partaking of their annual dinner at the Medford House, found considerable difficulty in dealing with the perturbations of the drawbridge; that they practised a sort of involuntary goose-step, and did a good deal of marching without making much progress. But this was an old-time bit of chaff that never had any substantial foundation. The members of the Phalanx were sober and respectable citizens, and were no more perplexed with the up-and-down motion of the drawbridge than other travellers. I shall always stand by the Phalanx. What pride the old boys of Medford used to take in that company! How we admired the colossal form of Capt. Samuel Blanchard, dressed in a blue uniform with buff facings, his shoulders crowned with an enormous pair of gold epaulets! We followed the Phalanx in the May training in all its marchings and counter-marchings, from Symmes' corner to the Malden line, striving ineffectually to keep step to the music of the band. I remember that the ladies of Medford presented a stand of colors to the company. I wonder if they are in existence now!

But to resume. I have to indulge in episodes; memory runs away with me.

About the time of the building of the railroad station that part of Main street between the bridge and Jonathan Porter's store, now Yerxa and Yerxa's, underwent great changes. A wooden building used to occupy the present site of Bigelow's brick block next the river. This building, or a part of it, was tenanted by Mr. Patrick Conolly, a tall, thin Irishman of severe aspect, a cobbler by profession. General Lawrence tells of Mr.

Conolly that on one St. Patrick's day, after making his usual preparations for attendance upon the festival in Boston, — assuming the swallow-tail coat and high hat essential to the occasion, — he concluded to take his money along with him and, the better to ensure its safety, he pinned it up carefully in the pocket of one of his coat tails. Mr. Conolly straightway proceeded to Boston and devoted himself conscientiously to the celebration of the great national holiday, in which he would appear to have been only too much absorbed; for when he returned home at night, but with some difficulty, on taking off his coat he found that that branch of the establishment in which he had deposited his savings had gone into the hands of a receiver; in other words, somebody had cut off one of his coat tails and, to render the offence more aggravated, he had eliminated the one which contained Mr. Conolly's ducats.

Well, next to the house I have just mentioned, but a little further back from the street, if I remember correctly, was a building which had formerly been occupied as a dwelling-house by Mr. Ebenezer Hall. In this house, until it was removed, Mr. Abner Bartlett, the only lawyer in town at that date, had his office. Here he used to hold his little court as trial justice, and he had always a goodly attendance of boys to witness the proceedings. Squire Bartlett was a scholar and a gentleman, and a sound lawyer, but his manner was eccentric, and in making his notes of the evidence of witnesses he had a funny way of repeating their words. For instance, in a case of assault and battery a witness would depose: "He came up to him and shook his fist in his face." Mr. Bartlett, following the evidence, while writing it down, would say audibly, "Shook his fist, shook his fist, shook his fist in his face, shook his fist in his face." All of this was vastly entertaining to us youngsters. He married the sister of Tristram Burgess, of Rhode Island, member of Congress, and famous for his powers of sarcasm and invective, which

made him the rival of John Randolph, of Virginia, with whom he came into frequent collision. It would be difficult to say which of them won the palm in the interchange of vitriolic personalities.

I had intended to give a more complete description of the buildings in the square and its neighborhood, but the enumeration of them would be prolix and interesting only to a few. I will therefore proceed at once to give some account of the schools of Medford as I passed through them from 1836 to 1842.

I first attended the Cross-street Grammar School, kept of Mr. Aaron Magoun, afterwards a much-respected teacher in one of the Cambridgeport schools, of which he was master for a very long term of years. The Cross-street school was a school very much after the antique pattern. Boys and girls attended of all ages, from eight years to twenty. The teacher had twice or thrice as much to do as he could attend to, and the discipline was of a very rough-and-ready sort. The curriculum which I followed up was remarkable for its limitations: a lesson in Colburn's Mental Arithmetic, a reading exercise, and a lesson in spelling, — the memorizing of a column of words from the spelling-book, — all very long words of five or six syllables, which I have never had occasion to use since. When I left the school, after attending it a year, I am sure I should have spelt the word "which" with a "t" in the centre. I never *wrote* a word while in the school. Having a good deal of leisure on my hands, I spent part of it in swapping marbles with my neighbor and in drawing pictures of ships and horses on my slate. Every boy in Medford could then draw the picture of a ship — it was his duty to pay homage to the local industry. The monotony of the day was varied by an occasional call to the desk, and you retired from a short interview with the teacher with resentment in your heart and a good deal of inflammation in your hand. I never knew a teacher who could strike the end of

one's fingers with the masterly precision which characterized Mr. Magoun's handling of the ruler. I don't think I learned much while at Mr. Magoun's school, except to draw a ship and a horse — the latter with both fore-feet off the ground and a monstrous redundancy of tail. But yet these were accomplishments not to be despised.

Afterwards I attended school in the old brick schoolhouse behind the Unitarian Church. It was kept by Mr. Benj. F. Tweed, afterwards professor of rhetoric in Tufts College, and a supervisor of schools in Boston. He was an excellent teacher and did the best that could be done with the incongruous elements of which his school was made up. Here I learned something of geography, arithmetic, and grammar — not much of grammar except to commit the definitions to heart — as "A verb is a word which signifies to be, to do, and to suffer." Only Kant and Hegel could gain any information from that definition. I attended this school during the last two years of Mr. Tweed's incumbency, when he was succeeded by Mr. Foster, — an excellent teacher and a good man. I attended his school for a year, and was then admitted to the High School, being twelve years old. Of course I was very imperfectly qualified for such an advancement, but the conditions for admission to the school were not so severe as they are now. I was a tolerable reader, but a very bad speller. It was with extreme difficulty that I have learned to spell since ; in fact I haven't. Of English grammar, like most graduates from grammar schools of that date, I knew absolutely nothing, for I had studied only in the formal way of which I have already spoken just long enough to gain an "acquired ignorance" of the whole subject. My best hold was on mathematics, for which I had some natural aptitude. A year after entering the school I entered upon the study of Latin, and then the darkness which hung over English grammar was lifted ; for Latin is an inflected language,

and from the change of terminations one learns what is meant by the agreement and relations of words in the application of the rules of syntax.

My first teacher in the High School was Mr. Daniel H. Forbes, a very earnest and faithful instructor. He was succeeded by Mr. Isaac Ames, a graduate of Dartmouth, afterwards Judge of Probate of Suffolk County. He was a man of broad culture and high aims, and his bright personality at once impressed itself upon the school. To come under the influence of a mind of original power, and of a nature ardent, generous, and manly, is to young people the best part of a liberal education, and such was the good fortune of those who attended the High School during the incumbency of Mr. Ames.

The course of study in the old High School was of a mixed character. It was almost altogether an English course. We took up arithmetic, geography, book-keeping, algebra, plain geometry, ancient history, moral, intellectual, and natural philosophy, botany, chemistry, and Latin — all of course in a rudimentary way, but intelligently, and to good results. It was, so far as it went, a sound school. No Greek was taught until near the close of Mr. Ames' term of service, and no modern language.

With Mr. Ames' retirement closed my connection with the High School. I left it to attend the private school of Mr. Day, kept in the larger building which used to occupy the site upon which the residence of Mr. Joseph Manning, on Forest street, now stands. Mr. Day was the successor of Mr. John Angier, long and favorably known as the principal of a boarding-school which obtained a high repute under his management, and which was at one time attended by George W. Curtis and by pupils from other States, and from the West Indies.

I might go on interminably, but I spare you. The story is long when one abandons himself to memory. I

have tried to give you a glimpse of the Medford of sixty years ago. If we could find somewhere, in some way, the diary or journal of some Puritan Samuel Pepys, dating say back to the year 1650, recording the story of the building up of the town of Medford, — telling of the people, their ways and manners, their thoughts and experiences, — what would we not give for it! The lack of such information leaves us in the dark as regards the earliest history of Medford. We only know that there was a Mr. Davidson who represented Governor Cradock and who was in his interests in this town. Who his coadjutors and companions were, and what they did — of this we know nothing, and never shall. They had no reporter.

ELIZUR WRIGHT AND THE MIDDLESEX FELLS.

[Extract from a paper read by Miss ELLEN M. WRIGHT, before the Medford Historical Society.]

"IN his later years Mr. Wright deemed forest preservation among the most urgent of his causes. He was a member of the American Forestry Association, and whenever possible made his voice heard at its gatherings; but in this interest his most important achievements were the rescue of a territory of Minnesota land from a speculation criminally destructive of its forests, and in his widely known effort to secure the Fells as a forest park, of which the Metropolitan Park System is the outcome. In 1844, while in England, he was strongly impressed with the necessity of forests in or near every large city, and in 1847 suggested through his paper, the 'Chronotype,' the establishment of a great 'rural playground' for Boston such as Greenwich is to London. And premonitory of the Metropolitan effort he says: 'A fine park might be had in two or three places on our harbor open to the sea breezes. A better one could be had by purchasing the noble Blue Hill from

which the State takes its name. A whole mountain for a playground — only think of it!' But in 1864, the year he came to live in Medford, another site, richer and more varied in its wild pictures and with a larger promise of a future forest, revealed itself in the old five mile woods or Middlesex Fells, and though at no period of his crowded life harder pressed for time, with God's command in every breath-giving tree, and the cry of breath-starved children in every by-way of Boston, to neglect this fresh call was not in him. That rocky, rambling ground, good for nothing but woods, seemed to him the 'predestined gift of nature,' and he had no sooner made himself master of its natural boundaries and resources than he began exhibiting it to others and in 1869 urged its claims to be secured before a committee of the city council specially appointed in behalf of a park or parks for Boston. The paper he read was one which bears the name he had given his Fells, 'Mt. Andrew Park.' The outcome of the meeting which was held in December was the passage of a law in 1870 which allowed land to be taken by the city for its park or parks within or near the city limits; but unfortunately this bill had in its Section 17 a proviso by which it couldn't take effect without a two-thirds vote of the city's legal voters, — it was to have been a majority vote, but a grudging amendment raised it, — and as according to the city records, out of 15,149 legal voters only 5,916 wanted a park or to have others have one, the law was killed. Boston, in vulgar phrase, 'had cut her nose off to spite her face.'

"Mr. Wright, whose hope was for lungs, — large oxygen exhaling Fells and Blue Hills lungs, — wrote of this action April 26, 1861 : 'The well guarded park bill of last year, which submitted the whole problem of the future beauty and grandeur of our city to a competent and impartial commission, was defeated in the interest of projectors who have manifest private ends to serve. Everybody has private ends ; and the public is not

about to forego its own ends, lest somebody should be privately benefited by it. It ought to, and will do the best it can for its whole self, without injury to any individual, and if any individual is enriched by it, so much the better for him or her. Let us have fair play, and no dog-in-the-manger.' But in 1875 Boston, in the passage of a law which, negatively expressed, *restricted* municipalities from securing park land *outside* their *own* limits, Boston again played 'dog-in-the-manger.' and did not play fair, either to her own vital need of pure air and water, or to her future grandeur, — still less to the necessities of the case ; for the Fells and Blue Hills, her only chance for anything like a forest, were under distinct jurisdictions. Without just such a course as Mr. Wright in 1880 had the foresight and the insight to pursue, and the courage to persist in, these two most beautiful and most vitally needed of our parks would have been wholly lost to us. The ordinary legislative programme, or process, used later in the Metropolitan idea, could not, or rather *would* not, have been carried out without its help. Mr. Wright had not done pioneer work all his life not to know that his purpose in the Fells was something too far outside the city limits as to philanthropy and comprehensiveness not to need its practicality manufactured for it. Until 1880, hoping younger men, and men who though wise and good were not, like him, so strongly identified with unpopular good causes as to have incurred the enmity of the ruling mammon powers, would take the matter up, he continued writing, lecturing, exhibiting the Fells, and in other ways preparing the way ; but no independent effort was made, and in 1880 he put his own wits to work. Knowing the necessity of forest contiguity to the purity of the air and the protection of water sources, it seemed all important to him that the entire 4,000 natural Fells acres should be taken at one time, and thus be under a wholly unitary control, and to this end his plan proposed to secure the Fells by a two-thirds vote and appropria-

tion from its municipalities, and to encourage this vote it called for a voluntary contribution sufficient to extinguish private titles, which at the appraised value of that date he found to aggregate about $300,000. This contribution took the form of a pledge, the payment of which was conditional upon the vote being favorable. So large a tax on so small a thing as private or disinterested public enterprise did not promise the success his plan deserved ; but the practical politicians to whom Mr. Wright had appealed, though unanimous in applauding his object, still echoed the governmental hopelessness which eleven years earlier had met the same appeal from H. W. S. Cleveland, and in overcoming this hopelessness, Mr. Wright knew the worth of his plan. Its social and educational force under the wit of his pen, and the inspiring influence of his direction, were factors that had been found effective in the working out of problems far more hopeless. When Sylvester Baxter in his 'Boston Park Guide' wrote of it, 'The public sentiment aroused by this agitation finally led to the establishment of the Metropolitan Park System,' he was writing history, not politics ; but whether history in the future will fully realize the forestal grandeur and vital benefits sown by Mr. Wright in that public sentiment depends, to my thinking, on a different treatment of the woods than they have thus far received. A generous public sentiment and a tree are things far easier to destroy than to make grow ; and the practical politicians whose wishes enter into the present park's control know just how to do it. Had the Fells park been established under Mr. Wright's plan nothing in the mutability of human affairs could have furnished a surer safeguard to its permanency, or that of its most important benefit, the forest, than the private ownership feature of that part voluntary purchase ; but let us hope that enough of the public sentiment and of the *woods* may be spared, that the former growing yearly stronger on the increasing worth and beauty of the latter may still work to the same good end.

On Oct. 15, 1880, Mr. Wright called together some two hundred people, and on Bear Hill formed a small association to devise plans and the measures for carrying them out. Two plans were sketched, Mr. Wright's and that of Wilson Flagg. Mr. Wright's embraced the distinct and yet harmonious purposes of both, and was the one adopted. During the next two months, these able advocates had made such headway that the mass meeting held in the Medford Town Hall on Jan. 1, 1881, was packed with eager listeners and addressed by speakers who having just returned from a smart drive through the Fells were strong for their preservation. Eighteen hundred and eighty-one later on was the year of the Ravine woods desecration, and this heartless and selfish destruction Mr. Wright did his best to prevent, but the owners in an attempt to take advantage of his public spirit charged a price so exorbitant, that he could neither pay it nor, in the time allowed, get it subscribed. Forced to abandon his hope, he determined those grand old saviors of mankind should perish only to save their brother trees, and his work for his Fells was redoubled. He had already established "Forest Festivals," which were held yearly and in different parts of the Fells, that its attractions might supplement the speaking, or rather might speak for themselves; and in 1883, in his "Forestry Law" of 1882, Chap. 255, he had secured all the legislation necessary to his plan, and to the taking of lands by it anywhere in Massachusetts; had enlisted trustees to take charge of his conditional obligations; had obtained toward the subscription written pledges to the amount of $14,102, and verbal promises of more than twice that sum, and had begun the work of organizing "Public Domain Clubs" in the Fells municipalities and in Boston, for he did not forget that Boston's obligation should be measured by her benefits, which acting in concert with the Fells Association might elect committees and employ canvassers. Such a club, comprising some two hundred members, he caused to be formed

in Medford. What little help he had thus far had on the subscription had come solely from a few who loved the woods and a good deed, but at this stage of his progress an organized effort was of course a necessity, and to effect it needed that a few other men as enterprising as himself should, independent of his prompting or aid, form the clubs needed in the other places. Such cheering help did not reward him, but he did not cease trying to bring it about. If there was not enterprise enough for his own plan, he had its purpose still at heart. His last Forest Festival was held, I think, in 1885, the last year of his life; and its special object was so to strengthen the Fells Association as to help him in this work. In his last year too, by his invitation or influence, the National Forestry Congress was held in Boston. Toward its success, and that of his object, with the added hope of lending some little favor toward the establishment of similar forest parks near other large cities, he made every effort. This was in September. Feeling his strength on the wane, his work till the day of his death was to see such other men as he hoped, after it, might take the matter up. And on November 21 he died, bequeathing to the later undertaking the credit and the crown his own had earned, and with them, through his children's love, the beautiful woods of Pine hill and its neighborhood."

CONTRACT FOR REBUILDING CRADOCK BRIDGE.

1829.

Copied by John H. Hooper.

MEMORANDUM of articles of agreement entered into by the undersigned, being a Committee of the Town of Medford, appointed to build a new bridge where the Great Bridge now stands, or to repair the same, on the one part, and Samuel Chittenden Bridge builder, on the other part, witnesseth — to say

An entire new bridge is to be built, extending from

the stone abutments or walls recently built, from North to South the whole length being about sixty five feet, and width about thirty eight feet, with a draw in the place, where the present draw is placed, the said draw to be made of two leaves, — and the width from east to west, Thirty feet, and from North to South Twenty nine feet, leaving thereby a passageway for vessels of twenty nine feet, and furnished with Machinery, and Iron chains to raise it, in all respects equally sufficient for the purpose, as the draw now is on Warren Bridge at Charlestown. The said Bridge is to rest on the Stone Abutments on each side, and on white oak piles to be driven into the ground at proper distances, so as to form the passageway for vessels. The said piles to be at least thirteen inches square at the top, with white oak caps in proportion. The string timbers of the Bridge parts to be six & a half inches wide, & thirteen inches deep, — and those of the draw to be at least sixteen inches at the ballast end and seven by ten inches at the ends where the leaves meet, with proper and sufficient white oak caps, — the piles to be braced as they are done at Warren Bridge.

The wheels of the draw machinery to be of the same kind of wood with iron cog rings, and the draw to be balanced with iron ballast in like manner.

The whole to be planked with good pine plank free of sap, three inches in thickness, and sheathed with spruce plank of two inches in thickness.

A single railing is to be made the whole length of the bridge on both sides, and an inside railing to guard foot passengers as far as the draw.

And the said Samuel Chittenden has agreed and does hereby agree to build a Bridge as above described & with good and sufficient materials, in every respect sound and strong, & with like machinery as now in use at Warren Bridge, to the acceptance of said committee, the whole to be completed within the term of forty days, and the work to be done without any obstruction to the public travel, in so far as the west part of the Bridge

and Draw is to be first built, and the east part of it is to be sufficiently supported so as to allow of all the travel to pass thereon, until the west part is built. And as a full compensation for the said work and materials without any other expense whatever to the Town of Medford, the committee on their part agree, that the said Town shall pay to the said Samuel Chittenden the Sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars. — and no bills for extra work or materials are to be demanded or allowed, unless previously authorized by the committee it is further understood, that the hoisting post & railing to be of pine, & the barrell for the chains to run on, to be of black or yellow oak, & also that the pig iron ballast now on the draw, is to be used by said Chittenden without cost to him, and that the Committee shall furnish a proper plan to do the work, also free of expense, and further that the string timbers where the gudgeons are inserted shall be ten inches by twelve, the gudgeons of wrought iron and boxes of Cast iron.

And the parties to these presents have hereunto interchangably set their hands this Seventh day of July Eighteen Hundred & twenty nine.

TURELL TUFTS
ANDREW BLANCHARD JR, } *Committee*
EBEN^{R}. HALL JUN, } *of the Town*
JOHN B. CLISBY } *of Medford*
JOHN B. FITCH
SAMUEL CHITTENDEN "

MEDFORD ASSEMBLY OR DANCING CLASS.

Organized Nov., 1808.

COPIED BY HELEN T. WILD.

THE Gentlemen of Medford desirous to enjoy the Social and Elegant Amusement of Dancing for at least three evenings do hereby agree, all who subscribe our names, to bear an equal share of the expenditures

of the same, in testimony whereof we severally subjoin our signatures.

No gentleman to be admitted under Twenty-one years of age.

Genl John Brooks	Jona. Warner.
Hon[r] Timothy Bigelow	Jona. Porter.
Josiah Bradlee	John Hosmer
Sam Buel	Dudley Hall
Eben[r] Hall.	Josh. Manning
Hon P. C. Brooks.	Saml Swan Jr.
Edmt. Dunkin	B. L. Swan
N. B. Dunkin	Joseph Swan
Sam. Gray	Samuel Weed
John Brooks	Nath'l Hall
Isaac Brooks	Jno. Bishop
James Brooks	Jno. Bishop Jr.
Jno. Le Bozquet	Thos. Brooks
James Gilchrist	Epm. Hall

Abner Bartlett.

RULES FOR THE ASSEMBLY.

Nov. 18, 1808, at the Meeting of the Committee of arrangements the following rules were drawn up for the regulations of the Medford Assembly.

1st. — No person to be admitted as a subscriber who does not belong to the town.

2nd. — Each subscriber shall be entitled to a ticket for himself and for a number of Ladies not exceeding three — subscribers tickets to be issued for the season.

3d. — Each subscriber shall be entitled to one disposable Gentlemens ticket at each assembly for which he shall be answerable to the managers at four dollars each, and any Gentleman so admitted shall have the privilege of introducing one lady, for whom he shall receive a ticket from the managers on application.

4th. — The managers are authorized at their discretion to present Honorary tickets to public characters.

5th. — No gentleman to be introduced under twenty-one years of age.

6th. — No segars to be smoked in the Dining Hall or drawing rooms.

7th. — The dancing will commence at 6 o'clock precisely and no new dance will be called after 12 o'clock.

Nov. 21, 1808. The Committee of Arrangements reported the following statement which had been agreed to and signed by Mr. Blanchard

The Committee of Arrangements do agree to pay for Eighty Suppers at least at each assembly — the supper to consist of the following articles to be provided cold, viz.:

2 Hams, 15 lb. each.	Crackers and biscuit.
4 Neats Tongues.	cellery with dressing.
Cheese.	Fowles 2 dozen.

Liqors.

Best Lisbon Wine in bottles, good cogniac Brandy, Gin, Loaf Sugar.

Mr. Blanchard agrees to furnish the above mentioned articles at the following prices :

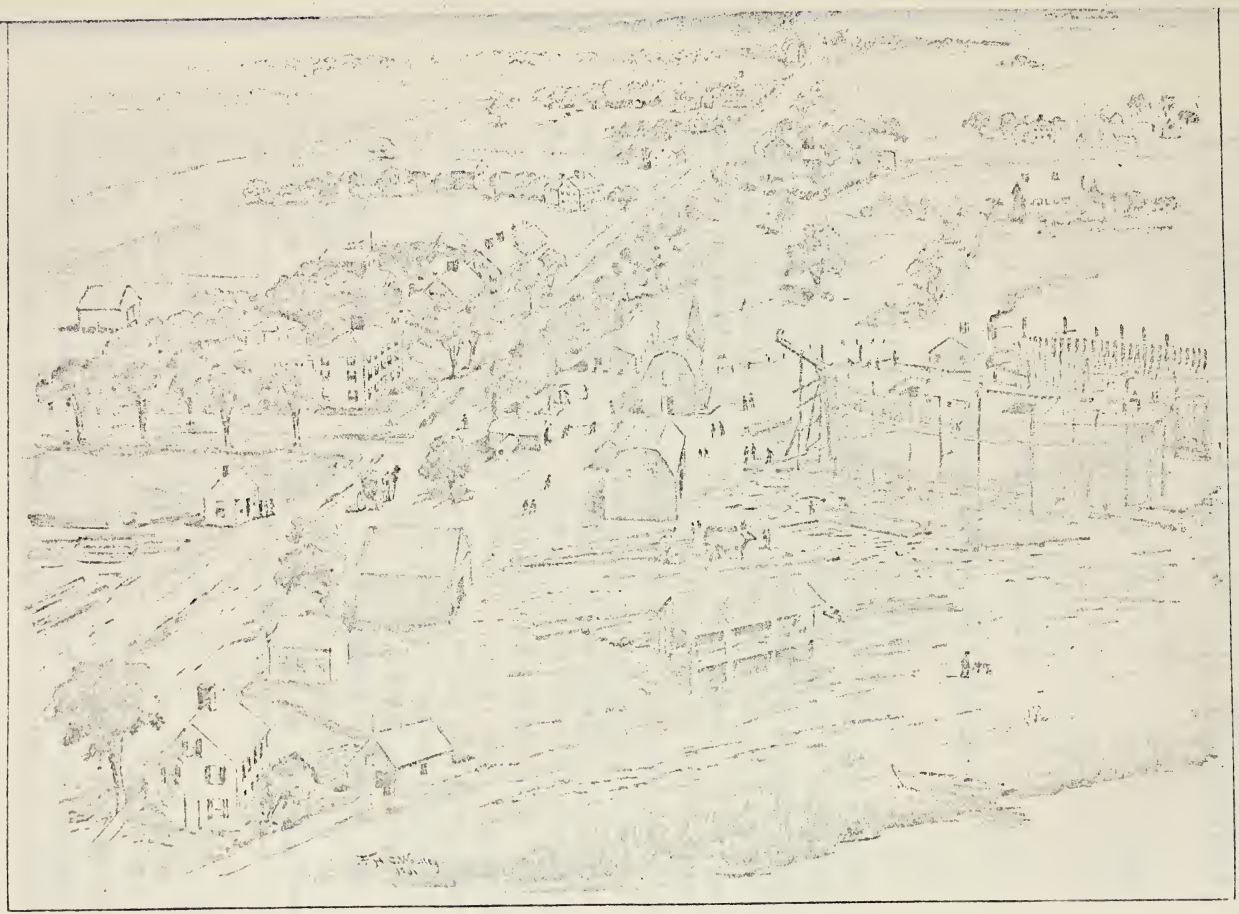
Supper at	$0.25
Wine for Bottle	0.66
Brandy per gall.	4.00
Gin	3.00
Loaf Sugar	
Lighting and Warming Hall and drawing rooms	9.00

The Hall, Drawing rooms and Supper rooms to be put in order to the satisfaction of the Managers.

Signed, HEZEKIAH BLANCHARD.

S. SWAN
D. HALL
J. HOSMER
A. BARTLETT
} Attest

No lady admitted under 15 years of age.



OLD SHIP STREET, 1830–50. From Magoun's Ship-yard to Wellington Farm.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. IV. OCTOBER, 1901. No. 4.

OLD SHIP STREET.

Some of its Houses, Ships, and Characters.

BY FRED. H. C. WOOLLEY.

[Read before Medford Historical Society, May 20, 1901.]

STRETCHING southeastward from Medford square to Wellington farmhouse, shaded in part by buttonwoods, grass-edged, irregular, and rough, keeping in sight the river, in the early years of 1800 was a road known as the Town road or River road. The section of this road from the river landing opposite the foot of Cross street to Wellington was probably made to accommodate the two brick houses, then the only buildings in this part of Medford, with the exception of the Wellington farmhouse, built 1648–1652. One of these was at the eastern end of Governor Cradock's plantation, called the "Old Fort," built in 1634, and the other about five hundred feet north of this road at a point opposite the first shipyard. In 1746 the section from the market (Medford square) to the tide-mill (near Cross street) was opened.

When Thatcher Magoun, of Pembroke, Mass., came to Medford, and in 1802 selected a portion of land between the river and this road opposite its junction with Park street, and here located the FIRST ship-yard, an industry started that drew to Medford in the succeeding years many men and their families who located their homes along this road. These men came mainly from the Scituates, Marshfield, Hanover, and Pembroke, where for years ship-building had flourished, finding here better facilities for their chosen occupation; and so it came about that soon afterward a name

was given to this street which seemed exactly fitting; for at a town meeting held May 4, 1829, a committee that had been appointed to recommend names for the streets reported as follows: "From Porter's corner southeast to Wellington farm, *Ship Street*." Unfortunately after fifty years the name "Ship street" was laid aside on petition of the last ship-builder of the Ship-street yards. Perhaps it seemed to him an appropriate thing to do, as ship-building was then in its decline in Medford, and it happened that *he* built the last ship. On Nov. 15, 1872, it was voted at town meeting that the name of Ship street be changed to Riverside Avenue, on petition of J. T. Foster and others.

The oldest residents on Riverside avenue and many others born and brought up on the old street still cling to the familiar name "Ship street." A quotation from the "Boston Transcript" of several years ago may not be out of place here.

Speaking of the way in which the ship-building industry of Medford has disappeared and left hardly a trace of the once familiar ship-yards along the meadow, the writer says: "Even the name of the street which commemorated the industry — 'Ship street,' which runs along the edge of this meadow — has been changed, with a totally Philistine indifference to the fitness of things, to 'Riverside avenue.' Perhaps, with the progress of popular cultivation and the coming of a better sense of what is fit and proper, the name of Ship street may be restored to the quiet old thoroughfare which leads out past the Cradock House; and then the town will possess at least one reminder of its noblest industry."

SOME OF ITS HOUSES AND CHARACTERS.

The men who came to Medford to engage in the ship-building industry and settled along Ship street built plain, substantial houses of ample proportion varying but little in style from one another. The square

pitch roof with one large chimney in the centre, or a chimney at each end, was the predominant type. A few gambrel-roofed are still to be seen, but none of the hip-roofed type, of which there were three, are in existence. These houses, backed by orchards, fronted by the sturdy lilacs, guarded by sentinel posts at the front gateway of the picket fence, shaded by chestnut, button-woods, or elms, were the pride of those ship-builders and carpenters. There many of the substantial citizens of Medford grew up.

Mr. Thatcher Magoun, the pioneer ship-builder, built his residence at the easterly corner of Park and Ship streets, a large two and a half story house, hip-roofed, with a long L; and a barn somewhat back with a curving driveway thereto. Several large elms in later days shaded the place.

Here a great many of those who afterward became ship-builders boarded while serving their apprenticeship with Mr. Magoun. His ship-yard was opposite, where from 1803, the year of the launching of his first vessel, the "Mt. Ætna," until he launched his last, the "Deucalion," in 1836, he built more than any other one builder in Medford, his list of vessels numbering eighty-four. He finally removed to the residence he built on High street (now the Public Library). On Sept. 19, 1865, his old home, then occupied by several families as a tenement house, was completely burned.

Mr. Calvin Turner, who established the second ship-yard at the corner of Cross and Ship streets, in 1805, lived in a house similar in build to Mr. Magoun's. It was situated near where the present Boston & Maine freight shed stands, and moved to Court street some years ago. Mr. Turner was esteemed a faithful builder, and is to be credited with twenty-five vessels.

Another contemporary was *Samuel Lapham*, son of George Bryant Lapham, of Marshfield, Mass., who came here in 1800, and built his homestead on Ship street, some distance below Park street and nearly opposite

what is now Maverick street. Here was born, on Nov. 4, 1808, *Samuel Lapham* (2d), who became apprenticed to Thatcher Magoun, and, after serving his time, started business on his own account. He built his first vessel, the brig "Nabob," in 1830, at which time he purchased the yards and residence at the corner of Cross and Ship streets. The ship "Magnet," his twenty-third vessel, launched in 1856, was the last vessel built by him or in his yards. He then retired from the business of building vessels, in most of which he was part or sole owner. He built several ships, the "Argonaut," "Don Quixote," and others, for Mr. John E. Lodge, the father of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge.

Mr. Lapham was the first chief engineer of the Medford Fire Department. He died at his residence May 24, 1886.

Of all the homesteads on old Ship street, that of *Mr. Galen James* (Deacon James) stands out clearest in memory, situated at the corner of what is now known as Foster court. It was imposing; a large brown house, a long low ell connected with shed, carriage house and barn of ample proportion shaded by large elms. West of the house, along the street, an apple orchard, and to the south the marshes and river.

Mr. James, born in Scituate in 1790, came to Medford in the early years of 1800 and learned the ship-building trade of Thatcher Magoun, in whose family he lived while so doing. He built his house in 1820. He formed a partnership with Mr. Isaac Sprague and they started a ship-yard in 1817, the third in Medford, at the foot of what is now Foster court. Their first vessel was built in 1816, named the "Bocca Tigris;" the last in 1842, the bark "Altorf." Several of their vessels were built for Mr. Joseph Lee, of Boston, a bachelor of eccentric character.

As was customary, Mr. James had a number of apprentices who lived with him, including his own brothers. He had a long, old-fashioned table which would seat

seven or eight on a side, the apprentices sitting at his right hand and those who were free at his left. Grace was always said and family prayers were the custom.

Sprague & James' yard was the first to abolish the eleven o'clock drink. It had been the business of the youngest apprentice to prepare it. They thought it a bad precedent. The men were called together and offered what the drinks would cost to be added to their wages. To this all agreed, but there were many who thought a vessel would never slide off the ways without it. However, the first vessel launched, after this change in custom, slid off successfully and a great hurrah went up.

Who that lived on Ship street can forget that familiar horse and carryall, in its trips to and from the square? "There goes Deacon James' 'gospel wagon'" was the expression as the Deacon, smiling all over, sat on the front seat surrounded by merry children, as many more filling the body of the carriage. Every child who lived along the street knew him, and looked for the coming of the old red horse and wagon, and he took them all in. Was not this the "gospel spirit"?

Mr. James died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Haskins, on April 14, 1879.

Mr. Isaac Sprague, the partner of Mr. James, came to Medford from Scituate and bought the house now known as the old Sprague house, situated near Spring street. This house had only two rooms in the main part, but was from time to time enlarged until it assumed goodly proportions. The barn was built by Mr. Sprague, at the raising of which many of the neighbors helped. Here he kept the oxen which he used in the ship-yard for hauling timber. Mr. William Sprague and Mr. Isaac Sprague, his sons, still live in Medford. He died Jan. 12, 1852, aged sixty-nine years.

A low one-storied house with large chimney and sloping roof, nestling amid lilacs and bright flowers, is remembered as the home of *Mr. Nathan Sawyer*, just

this side of Mr. Sprague's. He came to Medford in 1827 and in 1836 bought this house of a Mrs. Hatch, living here until he died in 1873. He had charge of making all the ironwork used by Sprague & James in the building of their ships, and owned two or three shops, having many men to work for him.

Paul Curtis, a name well-known. When serving time as apprentice he was called "honest Paul." He was born in South Scituate, Dec. 26, 1800, and came to Medford at the age of eighteen, learning his trade of Thatcher Magoun. Living at first in a double house with Jotham Stetson off Ship street, on what was termed "the Island," he afterward built and lived in the house next below Thatcher Magoun's (now Mrs. Reed's). In 1839 he moved to South street and in 1852 to East Boston. Mr. Curtis built twenty-seven vessels at Magoun's yard. In partnership with J. O. Curtis he built six, and continued building at East Boston. In all, his list of vessels reached a hundred.

Waterman and Ewell succeeded Paul & J. O. Curtis at Magoun's yard. *Mr. Foster Waterman* was born in Barnstable, June 2, 1805. He entered the business of ship-carpenter, serving apprenticeship with the late Noah Brooks, of South Boston, from which place he came to Medford and lived in the house of Oakman Joyce. He formed a partnership with Mr. Henry Ewell. They built here fifty-one vessels. He died at Nantasket beach at his summer residence, July 22, 1870. His daughter is Mrs. R. H. Stearns, of Boston. His partner, Mr. Henry Ewell, born at Marshfield, Dec. 31, 1806, was apprenticed to Thatcher Magoun at the age of seventeen. The house at the corner of Pleasant street and Riverside avenue now occupied by Mrs. Cudworth was built for Mr. Ewell and afterward sold to Mr. William Cudworth. On giving up business in Medford Mr. Ewell went to Quincy and then to East Boston, continuing in the same business.

From 1831 to 1860 many of the houses on Ship street

were built by *Mr. Oakman Joyce*, who came to Medford with his brother Samuel Joyce from Marshfield; and bought land along the street between Mr. Magoun's and Mr. Lapham's. For his brother Samuel he built the house afterward occupied by Roland Jacobs. Next below this he built his own in 1831, with timber cut from his wood-lot in Marshfield and brought here in a vessel. His reputation as a carpenter and builder is sustained by the quality of the houses he built. This may be seen in those on either corner of Pleasant street and Riverside avenue, and in many others in this vicinity. His work entered into the construction of the old Unitarian church, a Unitarian church in Chelsea, and a Methodist church in Malden. In later years he ran the saw-mill for Mr. Magoun at his ship-yard, afterward going into the coal business at what was recently Mr. Bean's wharf. He died July 21, 1869.

Mr. Roland Jacobs, born in Thomaston, Maine, in 1808, came early to Medford and learned ship-carpentering of Sprague & James. His home was next above Oakman Joyce's. In 1856 he worked for Mr. Magoun, and during the Civil War, in the navy yard. In 1873 he was working in Mr. Foster's ship-yard. After ship-building ceased Deacon Jacobs might any day be found at his carpenter shop, back of his house, making wheelbarrows; a conscientious, painstaking workman, whose wheelbarrows needed no further warrant than that they were "made by Deacon Jacobs." He died March 23, 1879.

The white house with cupola, built by Mr. C. S. Jacobs, back from the street among the trees, with the long iron fence front, and opposite the old Sprague homestead, is known as the home of *Mr. Joshua T. Foster*, proprietor of the *last* ship-yard. He came to Medford from South Scituate in 1826, and served with Sprague & James. In 1852 he became partner with Mr. John Taylor, succeeding his old employers. Afterward he became sole owner of the yard, where, until he launched his last in 1873, he built some famous ves-

sels, — forty-two in all. He was captain of the Medford militia in 1834; and held many offices in the town, being for eleven years a selectman, and four years assessor. In 1883–4 he represented Medford in the Legislature. He died Nov. 21, 1895.

We have now sauntered slowly down old Ship street from the home of the pioneer ship-builder at the corner of Park street; have stood in front of the homes or the sites of the homes of those men who made Medford ships famous, and in memory they have lived again. Turning now westward from Park street, other homes and persons come to mind who had their part in this important industry.

At the upper corner of Pleasant street was the house of *Mr. William Cudworth*, who, in partnership with Mr. Elisha Hayden, was the last to carry on shipbuilding at the old Magoun yard. Both these men came from Scituate, Mr. Cudworth being born Jan. 15, 1814, at a place now called Greenbush. His schooling was cut short at the age of thirteen, when he was sent to sea (his father being a captain) to help in support of the family. From his youth he loved ships, and it is said he used to draw and cut upon the panels of the rooms of his early home pictures of vessels in varied rig. Hayden & Cudworth built their first ship — the "Horsburgh," 577 tons — in 1846; their largest and last — the "Henry Hastings," 1,500 tons — in 1866; in all thirty-nine vessels. Mr. Cudworth served the town of Medford as one of its selectmen several times; was a representative to the Legislature for three consecutive sessions. He died at his home Feb. 2, 1877.

In the fine finish required for the interior of a ship's cabin, the workmanship of *Mr. Japhet Sherman* held a superior place. His trim-looking house, just below the corner of Pleasant street, was his residence from the time he built it, fifty-two years. He came from Marshfield, born there in 1818. In 1834 he apprenticed himself to Oakman Joyce, to learn carpentering and join-

ering, which trade he followed through life. His thoroughness and skill still speak in the fine work on the interiors of the houses of Gen. Samuel C. Lawrence, James W. Tufts, George L. Stearns, and Hon. Edward Brooks. He was a member of Volunteer Fire Department of General Washington, No. 3, and was instrumental in detecting the incendiaries who made the year 1855 one of terror. On his advocacy the cemetery was constituted a separate department of town government. He served six years on the first Board of Trustees. His zest for nature was keen. He knew every rare plant, and where in our woods it grew. His knowledge of shade and fruit trees was sought, and he shared his secrets with his neighbors. He passed away on Feb. 17, 1897.

Mr. Cram, the pump-maker, lived in the low house just opposite Pleasant street. He was always in demand. Judah Loring's home was next above Mr. Cudworth's. He was a ship-carpenter, having a shop located near the present railroad crossing.

Mr. Samuel Clark, who has just built a house on the site of Jonathan Sampson's homestead, came to Medford from Hanover in 1834 and was apprenticed to Edward Eells, a former ship-builder in Hanover who came to Medford in 1822 and did the joiner-work for many of the vessels built here. He died in 1838 and his son Robert L. succeeded him in business. Mr. Clark married the youngest daughter of Edward Eells in 1845 and lived many years in the old home. He is the only survivor of all the workers in the ship-yards *living on this old street*, and is in his eighty-fourth year.

The long tenement house known as "the Colleges" still stands. How it ever came to have a name like that is not known. An old deed conveying the property from one John Cutter, of Woburn, to Samuel Cutter, of Charlestown, dated Oct. 23, 1824, describes it as "a large dwelling-house . . . known by the name of 'the Colleges.'"

Passing by Lapham's ship-yard, which has been noticed, just beyond on the edge of the river was the old tide-mill of the days of 1746. At first a grist mill, it was afterward used for various purposes such as grinding of seed and paint and sawing and planing of lumber. It was burned on the early morning of April 19, 1894, but has been rebuilt and still runs and hums as of old.

There was Mr. Clough, who did coopering in a shop back of his house at the corner of Sables court. James Ford, who had a mould shop near his large house. Beyond this, Aaron Blanchard's, Mr. Wheeler's, and Calvin Turner's. Then you came to Gravelly creek wriggling its way over marshy land to the mill pond; it was crossed by a wooden bridge. Just above where the railroad crosses the street, on the left were Alexander Gregg's stables. Mr. Gregg was a prominent man in town affairs, having been a butcher, then a schoolmaster, then doing a large business teaming. He served in town offices and in the Legislature.

The last house on the right, gambrel-roofed, is the old Blanchard house, now occupied by daughter and granddaughter of Mr. Gilbert Blanchard, who bought the place of Mr. Dudley Hall. Here for several years Mrs. Buckman kept a private school for boys and girls. Mr. Blanchard kept a grocery store in the brick building, corner of Ship and Salem streets.

Many others might be mentioned who have borne an important part in the old street's history, but space forbids. Jonathan Porter's store ("Porter's corner") at the square has been reached. The street was named beginning at this corner.

SOME OF ITS SHIPS.

Ship "Gem of the Ocean," 730 tons, built by Hayden & Cudworth, was launched at midnight, Aug. 4, 1852, on account of the tide. Each man brought his lantern. Mr. Cudworth's mother, then seventy years of age,

never having witnessed a launch, came up from Scituate and was present at the event — a great one for her.

Ship "Electric Spark," 1,200 tons, launched at the same yard in 1855, was commanded by Capt. R. G. F. Candage (now of Brookline) and made the voyage to California in one hundred and six days.

The "Boston Advertiser" of Saturday, May 10, 1856, has the following advertisement:

GLIDDEN & WILLIAMS LINE FOR SAN FRANCISCO

To Sail on or before Tuesday, May 20,

THE MAGNIFICENT FIRST-CLASS CLIPPER SHIP

"THATCHER MAGOUN"

S. B. BOURNE, Comdr.

The "Thatcher Magoun" is truly an elegant ship extremely sharp and ventilated in the most thorough manner. She will sail as above.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

For Freight or Passage

Apply at CALIFORNIA PACKET OFFICE

39 Lewis Wharf.

She was built by Hayden & Cudworth.

To illustrate the quality of work by a famous Medford ship-builder a lady relates this experience:

She was returning from Europe with husband and family on the ship "John E. Thayer." They encountered an unusually severe gale lasting three days, with constantly increasing violence. The passengers became so alarmed that the captain was appealed to for assurances of safety. While he admitted the storm to be the worst he had ever known, he called the ladies to the cabin and asked them to notice the builder's name in golden letters on the white enamelled panel. They read this: "PAUL CURTIS, BUILDER." He assured them that no ship of his had ever foundered,— no ships

had so high a record for low insurance rates, — no timber or bolt was introduced unless free from all defect. "I assure you, ladies," he said, "I think she will ride this terrible storm safely." The ship came safely through the storm. Although this ship is not in the list of Medford-built vessels, this incident is well worth a record here on account of the builder being one of Medford's best.

In 1851 there was constructed by B. F. Delano, at Magoun's yard, the ship "Dauntless," of 800 tons, faultless in every particular, the pride of the builder and owner. She was commanded by Captain Miller, who then lived in the large house at the corner of Revere place and Salem street. From the day she sailed away no tidings of her ever came to shore.

The ship "Don Quixote," built at Foster's yard in 1868 (A picture of this vessel is reproduced on the invitations to this meeting. She is represented just before the launch.) has a notice in the "Boston Evening Journal" of Oct. 29, 1868, as follows: "Launched, ship 'Don Quixote.' A fine vessel of about 1,000 tons was launched by Mr. Foster, at Medford, a few days since. She now lies at Long wharf and will load for San Francisco." Her commander was Captain Nelson, formerly of ship "Golden Fleece," and she sailed for Winsor's regular line for San Francisco.

The ship "Pilgrim," — long may she be remembered as the *last* of all the vessels built and launched on the shores of the Mystic! She was constructed at J. T. Foster's yard for Henry Hastings & Co. Of nearly a thousand tons, launched on Dec. 3, 1873, she sailed to Hong Kong Feb. 14, 1874, with a cargo of ice, and was commanded by Capt. Frank Fowle, making the passage in one hundred and twenty-one days. Afterward, in December, 1889, was sold to Daniel Bacon, of New York. She was constructed of finest material, sailed the world over, making fair passages, and was lost.

SHIP-BUILDING.

In the early days of ship-building, work in the yards began with sunrise and ended at sunset, with allowance of time for meals. In later times the work hours were from 7 in the morning until 6 at night with an hour's nooning. Usually about sixty men were employed building a ship. They were the ship-carpenters, the calkers, the outboard and inboard joiners. The wages received were $2 per day, apprentices receiving $40 to $50 per year and board; many of the apprentices boarded with the proprietor of the yard. To build a 1,000 or 1,200 ton ship required about six months. In early times the timber was obtained in the neighborhood — then in New Hampshire — from where it was transported via the old Middlesex canal to Medford and drawn by ox-teams to the ship-yard. It was a sight in winter to see these teams go by — creaking, squeaking, the oxen with frosted backs and icicles hanging from their mouths.

Much might be written about the building of a ship from the laying of the first timber to the finishing touch, but that must be left for another time.

To be in the yard watching the varied processes going on in the ship's construction was the acme of delight to the interested boy. Oftentimes a few pennies were earned by some errand or by tending the steam-shed fire. "Looking in at the open door" of the blacksmith shop never lacked in attraction for the children. In early days matches were unknown, and old Mr. Lapham, the blacksmith, would be seen daily coming up the street from his house with his fire-brand to light his forge fire. What a supply of "chewing-gum" for the children there was in those big kettles of tar where all were permitted to help themselves without spending a cent!

The great day was the day of the launch. The neighborhood poured out — old ship captains came

from far and near, — the "school-marm" and her flock of boys and girls. It was a sight — grand, impressive, to look at the great ship that had been building so many months, now awaiting, in her dress of black and green, the incoming tide, when, the last block knocked from under, she would slide into the Mystic.

I remember while awaiting the high tide at a launch at Foster's yard that the "Great American Traveller," Daniel Pratt, located himself, with the aid of the boys, on a post at the river-end of the yard and began one of his rhapsodies on "that famous ship-canal from Medford to Chelsea, wherein great vessels should float to the sea," — that about in the middle of his remarks the launch took place and the water displaced rushed inward over the yard, leaving Daniel on the post surrounded, his audience being fleeter of foot having escaped inland. The flood soon subsided, and folding up his manuscript, which he always carried, Daniel was helped down and departed.

The impressions of boyhood last. Especially indelible are the pictures of the ship-yards upon memory, although the yards are grass-grown and scarcely a timber marks the spot. The daily procession of toilers to and from the yards, and the rhythmic clank, clank — clank, clank, of the calkers, still are seen and heard.

Of all the buildings in all the yards but one stands today — an old building in Foster's yard. A slight depression near by on the edge of the river marks the spot where the last ship was launched, — the "Pilgrim." The tides come and go as they always have. Old Ship street with its ships has passed into history. No shipbuilder is now living. Their sons and daughters are still with us.

CIVIC FEAST IN MEDFORD.

The "Columbian Centinel" of Jan. 30, 1793, contains the following account of the Civic Festival held to Commemorate the success of the French people in their fight for Liberty. Paper in possession of Benjamin F. Fenton.

THE Civic Feaſt was celebrated at Medford, on the 24th inſt. by a large number of the citizens of that town, and the following patriotick Toaſts given.

1. The United States of America.

2. Victory and Happineſs to our Illuſtrious Allies, the Patriotic Citizens of France.

3. The Gallant Officers and Soldiers of the French Army.

4. The National Convention of France — May they plan ſuch a Conſtitution of Government as ſhall give Joy and Safety to their Conſtituents — and enlighten all Europe.

5. The Patriot of Patriots, GEORGE WASHINGTON, Preſident of the United States of America.

6. The American Congreſs.

7. May the alliance ſubſiſting between France and America be perpetual.

8. Governor HANCOCK, and the Patriots of Maſſachuſetts.

9. Brunſwick's diſgrace, and retreat to the Ruſſian Armies in Poland.

10. Thomas Paine, and the Rights of man — May they be understood and adopted by all mankind.

11. May the People of France, having wreſted the Septre from Monarchy, enjoy Liberty without Anarchy.

12. A ſpeedy and univerſal downfall of Tyranny and Oppreſſion, and may Liberty and Equality be triumphant.

13. May the Hatchet be buried between the United States and the Indians, until the helve be crumbled to duſt.

14. La Fayette — May he be ſpeedily reſtored to the confidence of his Country.

15. May we be ſoon invited again to aſſemble on Events equally auſpicious with the preſent.

A Volunteer, given by a Gentleman formerly a Citizen of Ireland.

"May our next rejoicing on this occaſion be for the freedom of Ireland."

AN OLD ACCOUNT BOOK.

By Helen T. Wild.

ONE of the well-known figures about town previous to 1851 was Mr. Aaron Blanchard, the sexton of the Second Congregational Church. He was a tailor by trade, but to this occupation he added the care of the church building and the reading room in the old Tufts house, corner of High and Forest street.

His account book, which is the property of the Medford Historical Society, is interesting, giving hints as it does of the customs of other days. He used it not only to keep a record of his business, but wrote in it items pertaining to the church. In connection with his other duties, he tolled the bell for funerals, and the names of those for whom he performed this sad office, from 1827 to 1847, while he was sexton, are duly recorded. His business records are from 1815 to 1848.

Now when the old church building is being remodelled for commercial purposes, the list of movables which belonged to the church in Mr. Blanchard's time adds another item of interest to the history of the edifice.

Forty-six settees accommodated the Sunday-school. Fifteen Japan lamps, and four glass lamps on brass stands lighted the vestry. The reading desk was provided with a Bible, cushion, and singing books.

The church was lighted by twenty-four brass lamps and tins (reflectors?) six glass lamps and brass stands were "for the pulpit." One mahogany table and two

chairs, coverings for pulpit and curtains, one Bible and two hymn books, two contribution boxes, two stoves, and a fire set with brass knobs completed the furnishings. The top of the stove in the meeting house was thirty-seven and a half inches long and twenty-two wide. Sometimes, Mr. Blanchard records, lectures were given in the church on secular subjects. Under date of Oct. 11, 1833, he writes: "Lecture in vestry by M. Fowle on rocks, shark's jaws, mountains &c." In Mr. Blanchard's day people manufactured their own ink, and Mr. Blanchard, who was a fine penman, made his very carefully by the following receipt: 2 oz. nut gall, 1 do. Copperas, ½ do. gum arabic to 1 qt. Rain Water.

Among Mr. Blanchard's friends and patrons were Governor Brooks, John Bishop, Benjamin and Dudley Hall, Dr. Daniel Swan and his brother Joseph, Rev. Charles Brooks, Major John Wade, Turrell Tufts, and others. In 1815 Mr. John Bishop, Richard Hall, Major Wade, and Samuel Kidder still wore small clothes. In 1820 Major Wade was charged "for seating and repairing small clothes 37c." It is said that Major Wade was the last man in Medford to wear the ruffled shirt, small clothes, and shoe buckles of the colonial period. Mr. Blanchard's price for making a surtout coat was three dollars. In 1815 a "great coat" was provided with silver hooks and rings. Dr. Swan's had a large cape and velvet collar.

In 1816 Mr. Benjamin Floyd, 3d had a "swelled edge coat, and a pair of trim^{d} pantaloons."

Making a bound vest cost twice as much as a plain one.

When pockets were put into coats there was an extra charge made.

Breast pockets were mentioned in 1817.

Vests which were buttoned were especially noted. One set of buttons often did duty on several coats. "thrible gilt buttons @ 4 shillings a dozen" would wear out more than one. Hooks and eyes were first men-

tioned in 1817. Rev. Converse Francis in 1818 is charged for a black silk coat. In 1818 Mr. Francis Kidder rejoiced in a military coat with gilt buttons which cost him a dollar more than a surtout coat for the making. He also had a coat made from a surtout, and was by no means alone in wearing made-over clothing. One of his neighbors had "gilt buttons put on his old coat," and another had his surtout turned. Turell Tufts, one of the wealthiest men in town, had his Camlet coat turned.

In his tailor shop Mr. Blanchard kept an assortment of handkerchiefs, stays, and braces, and he often accommodated his patrons by making their winter underwear.

He must have derived much pleasure and intellectual profit from his work at the reading room; he certainly made little financially, as his salary for one year and eleven months was forty-nine dollars. In the reading room he was found dead one morning in December, 1850. His epitaph reads: "As thy servant was busy here and there he was gone."

LETTER FROM JOHN BROOKS TO DUDLEY HALL.

[Original in possession of Arthur T. Loomis.]

ALBANY, June 15, 1811.

MY DEAR SIR:

We all arrived safely in this city at 8 o'clock last evening. Owing to very crowded stages the first day's journey was rather expeditious than agreeable. The second day we had an extra carriage, which rendered the latter part of the journey extremely pleasant. The ladies were less fatigued than might have been expected. Hepsey[1] sustained her ride remarkably well. To-day we all seemed perfectly willing to rest. We are at Gregory's, who has contributed all in his power

[1] Hepsey Hall, sister of Dudley Hall.

to refresh and recruit us. He gives us a profusion of strawberries. Hepsey has added them to her lacteal regime, to which she strictly adheres. I gave Mrs. Brooks an airing this morning around the suburbs of the city as far to the northward as to give her a view of Troy. Previously, however, I conducted the ladies to the wharf and gave them a view of a steamboat. We had just time eno' to visit the different apartments before she sailed for New York. The whole was a great treat to us all and has added to the strength of our wishes, which were previously very strong to participate with you, the pleasure of a passage in one of those wonderful aquatic vehicles to New York. Before Tea, which is but just over, the ladies took a shopping stroll thro' some of the principal streets of the ancient city, and viewed some of the houses of Knickerbocker memory, the bricks and tiles of which were imported in days of yore from the Dutch Netherlands. With the miserable appearance of these buildings, we may rank among the most disagreeable things of Albany, the dirt and stench of the streets and the grunting of as many swine as a certain female we read of possessed of demons. But on the other hand we saw a number of very handsome public edifices, and many good private dwelling houses, and a good deal of business, as Saturday is a market day, going on in the streets. As we were descending State street, on returning from our ramble, we were shocked with an accident which happened directly before our eyes. A large powerful horse was descending State street in a cart loaded heavily with gravel. The load pressed very hard on the horse and he attempted to kick up, but the driver, who was a negro, instead of soothing, irritated the horse, and precipitated him into a full run. The driver, who was standing on top of the load, seeing himself in danger, leaped with great agility upon the pavement, but being unable to maintain his feet pitched forward under the left wheel, and his brains were instantly

dashed out. I wished my female friends had been elsewhere. The subject is an unpleasant one to dream upon.

To-morrow, after we shall have united with some of our Christian brethren in the usual sacrifices of the day, we propose going on to Schenectady, and on Monday continuing our course to the Westward.

Hepsey postpones writing until she reaches Canandaigua.

Mrs. B. and Mrs. S. were engaged this evening with Miss Gregory, who sings and plays on the piano in excellent style, and I engaged to write to you in her stead. Her duty, love &c. &c. to her Mother, yourself &c. &c.

With great affection and esteem I am

Yours,

J. BROOKS.

MR. DUDLEY HALL.

THE McKINLEY MEMORIAL SERVICE.

THE gathering in the Opera House on Thursday, September 19, the day proclaimed by National and State authorities as one of mourning for the late well-beloved President, and the honoring of his memory by public religious services, was one of the memorable mass meetings of the citizens of Medford.

The hall was filled to overflowing. The platform was occupied by members of the City Government and the clergymen of the city, by whom the service was conducted.[1] His Honor Mayor Baxter presided. The exercises opened with the singing of Watts' noble hymn, "O God our help in ages past." Invocation by Rev. M. A. Levy (Baptist). Singing, Cardinal Newman's beautiful hymn, "Lead, Kindly Light." Reading of Scripture by Rev. C. L. Eaton (Universalist).

[1] Rev. G. S. Chadbourne (Methodist) was absent from the city when details of the meeting were arranged.

Prayer by Rev. J. V. Clancy (Congregational). Brief remarks by Mayor Baxter. Address by Rev. T. L. Flanagan (Catholic). Singing, Toplady's precious hymn, "Rock of Ages." Address by Rev. H. C. DeLong (Unitarian). Address by Rev. F. I. Paradise (Episcopal). Singing, the ever favorite hymn, "Nearer my God to Thee." Address by Rev. Elijah Horr, D.D. (Congregational). Singing, "America." Benediction by Rev. Isaac Pierson (Congregational).

The singing, which was by the audience, led by cornet and piano, was grand and uplifting, an inspiration to participator and listener.

The addresses were in good taste, and impressively appropriate to the theme and the occasion. The address by Dr. Horr was especially fervid and eloquent, and at its close, notwithstanding the service was a *memorial* one, the great audience was so in sympathy with the speaker's magnetic oratory that a burst of applause went over the hall.

Dr. Horr's application of Tennyson's lines from "In Memoriam" to the life of President McKinley was very effective:

"Dost thou look back on what hath been,
As some divinely gifted man,
Whose life in low estate began
And on a simple village green;

"Who breaks his birth's invidious bar,
And grasps the skirts of happy chance
And breasts the blows of circumstance
And grapples with his evil star;

"Who makes by force his merit known
And lives to clutch the golden keys,
To mould a mighty State's decrees
And shape the whisper of the throne;

"And moving up from high to higher,
Becomes on Fortune's crowning slope
The pillar of a people's hope,
The centre of a world's desire."

C. H. Loomis.

THE ROYALL HOUSE.

THE Royall House has been furnished by the Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter, D.A.R., this year, and is used by them as a Chapter House. It is also open to visitors every day except Sunday. Since the opening day, April 19, 1901, over eight hundred have availed themselves of the privilege of visiting the historic mansion. That the fame of the place has gone far and wide is proved by those who come from long distances. Persons registered from many distant States, including Mississippi, Florida, Texas, California, and Washington on the Pacific, and even from Canada, England, and Honolulu.

Several members of the Royall family have been at the house, and other descendants of those who in bygone days made the house their home.

The Harvard Summer School were interested guests in July, and note-books were in demand when the Regent of the Chapter read a short historical address. Various chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Boston Society Sons of the American Revolution have made the house the goal of their summer outings.

September twentieth the State Regent and regents of Massachusetts D.A.R. held a meeting at the house and discussed at length the possibility of making the place a permanent historical museum.

NOTES.

Parson Osgood's account of the Dark Day, May 19, 1780.

"A very unusual darkness began about 10, & gradually increased till near one, and then as gradually Went off. I could Not read in ye Bible at ye window It was so dark. It rained in ye Morning, & continued cloudy throu ye day. In ye time of ye darkness ye heavens bore a brassy look."

Extract from the "Boston Mercury," Aug. 7, 1798.

"The Subscriber hereby notifies the Retailers of Wines & Foreign Distilled Spirits, and the Keepers of Riding Carriages, that attendance will be given at the Office of Inspection in Medford every day in the month of September next (Sundays Excepted) from 9 to 12 o'clock A. M. and 2 to 5 P. M.

"Retailers and others concerned are cautioned against penalties that may be avoided.

"SAMUEL SWAN, *Collector of Revenue.*"

From the "Christian Register," June 21, 1822.

"DIED. — On the Coast of Africa, in April last, Darius W. and J. W. Blanchard, master and supercargo of brig. Pedlar, of this port, (Boston) and sons of the late Mr. Hezekiah Blanchard, of Medford."

From manuscripts in possession of Swan Family.

Garb of Mr. Samuel Swan of Charlestown who died August 6, 1808, aged 86. Father of Major Samuel Swan and grandfather of Dr. Daniel Swan.

A three corner fine Beaver black hat. A large full curled wig. A claret colored fine broad cloth coat with wide flaps and large pockets. A long waistcoat flared off at bottom, with large pockets and buttoned up high in front. Small clothes of black cloth with knee band and knee buckles, black woolen stockings. Shoes high at the instep, with wide straps and large silver buckles. A plain smooth cane with a gold head and metal end. Gloves.

This dress he wore on Sundays to church and when he went to Boston to get his quarterly dividends on his United States stock.

MEETINGS OF THE MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SIXTH YEAR, 1901-1902.

October 21. — "Mrs. Jane Turell: Her Life and Work." Mrs. C. H. Morss, and Social Meeting.

November 18. — "The March of the Army under Arnold, from Cambridge to Quebec." Mr. E. H. Hines, of Danvers.

December 16. — "The Old Medford Turnpike, with Glimpses at the Brick Makers." Mr. John F. Ayer, President of Somerville Historical Society.

January 20. — "Grace Church of Medford." Mr. Benj. P. Hollis.

February 17. — "Physical Geography of Medford." Mr. W. S. Beekman.

March 17. — The Annual Meeting.

April 21. — "The Lawyers of Medford." Mr. H. A. Weitz.

May 19. — "The Lawrence Light Guard of Medford." Miss Helen T. Wild.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS AND ADDRESSES.

DAVID H. BROWN, *Chairman.*

JOHN H. HOOPER. MISS AGNES W. LINCOLN.
JOHN WARD DEAN. DR. R. J. P. GOODWIN.
WILLIAM CUSHING WAIT.

A SUMMER SENTIMENT.

THE woods are filled with friends;
Their presence, without human speech,
Is sweet to every sense.
Like strains of low-voiced music
From keys pressed down by unseen hands,
They tinge unspoken thoughts with beauty,
While in the silence of the peace unbroken,
We weave our fancies
Into dreams of love and duty. C. H. L.



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